PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

The making of a new

English flower garden

20

OF THE BEST WISTERIA

PERFECT PLANT COMBINATIONS FOR

summer gardens

Bring back the buttonhole

Let's wear flowers every day

Cuprinol
GARDEN
SHADES
4 YEAR WEATHER PROOF
All it takes is
Tender
Loving
Cuprinol

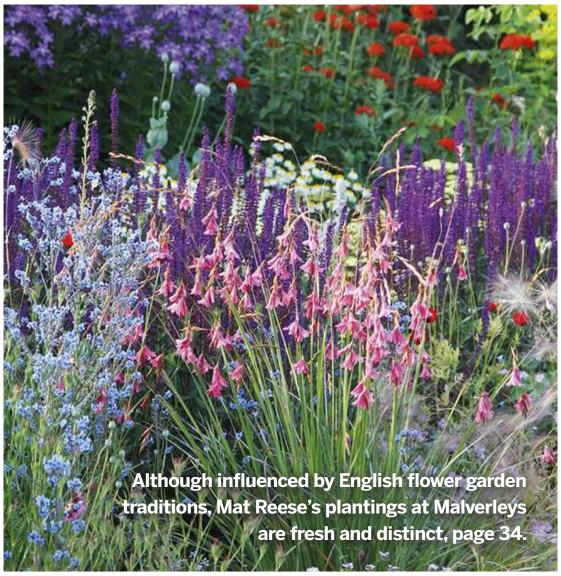
Love your garden with Cuprinol Garden Shades
Fresh Rosemary, Urban Slate and **Muted Clay.**
For more great ideas visit Cuprinol.co.uk

editor's letter

I first visited Malverleys just over four years ago, not long after head gardener Mat Reese began working there. I've been back a number of times since and it's been wonderful to witness each new area unfolding. Driven by a passion for finding the very best plants, and a love of the English flower garden traditions, Mat has succeeded in creating a garden with an extraordinary style of its own. For me the best gardens are where great planting meets clever, understated design; where the attention to detail and ongoing care are uncompromising, yet the garden maker is confident enough to allow for a certain amount of happenstance. Many of the gardeners and designers that we feature have a passion, some might say obsession, for plants. Marina Christopher, whose nursery specialises in good garden perennials especially those beneficial to pollinators, offers ten of her favourite plants for June; National Collection holder Chris Lane discusses 20 of the best wisteria and gives advice on how to grow them. We also take a look at the history of the buttonhole and launch our campaign to return these miniature posies to their rightful place on the nation's lapels. If you'd like to join in, then please post a picture of yourself wearing one via our social media channels using #BringBacktheButtonhole (see gardensillustrated.com for links). Look out for us at this year's GROW London, an exciting, contemporary garden fair held on Hampstead Heath on 24-26 June; we'll be sure to be wearing flowers. I hope you enjoy the issue.

Juliet

Save money when you **subscribe to the digital edition** – see page 32



Although influenced by English flower garden traditions, Mat Reese's plantings at Malverleys are fresh and distinct, page 34.

Join our campaign to bring back the buttonhole, and be inspired by these miniature posies, page 50.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

FERGUS GARRETT
Plantsman and head gardener at Great Dixter in East Sussex.

CAROL KLEIN
Plantswoman and presenter of BBC *Gardeners' World*.

DANIEL J HINKLEY
American plantsman, planthunter, horticultural writer and lecturer.

ALYS FOWLER
Kew-trained gardener, author and television presenter.

DAN PEARSON
Garden designer, plantsman and columnist.

ANNAÏCK GUITTENY, ANDREW MONTGOMERY

contents

JUNE 2016

ON THE COVER

New English flower garden page 34
Wisteria page 66
Summer gardens page 56
Buttonholes page 50

COVER IMAGE
Malverleys.
Photograph by
Annaïck Guitteny

Plants

22 **Plantsman's favourites** Marina Christopher recommends ten great garden plants for July

50 **Bring back the buttonhole** We'd love to see more people wearing flowers in their lapels, so we asked Charlie Ryrie of The Real Cut Flower Garden to create some inspiring examples

66 **Plant profile: wisteria** Expert Chris Lane considers some of the best wisteria for flower, scent and overall dramatic effect

Places

34 **Flowering ahead** Even though it's just five years old, the garden at Malverleys looks remarkably mature, thanks to head gardener Mat Reese's clever planting and the enthusiasm of its owners

44 **Falling for a view** Stunning views sold Chris and Robin Hutt their home in Sussex, but the steeply sloping garden proved such a challenge they soon realised expert advice was needed

56 **A riot of colour** Dutch designer Alie Stoffers is dedicated to fine tuning her borders in search of perfect colour combinations

76 **Three colours green** Even with a shady site and existing trees, designer Declan Buckley has managed to create a lushly planted garden that provides interest throughout the year

80 **Kingdom of heavenly scent** With its thriving nursery, café and garden school, the Königliche Gartenakademie in Berlin has become a go-to destination for garden enthusiasts

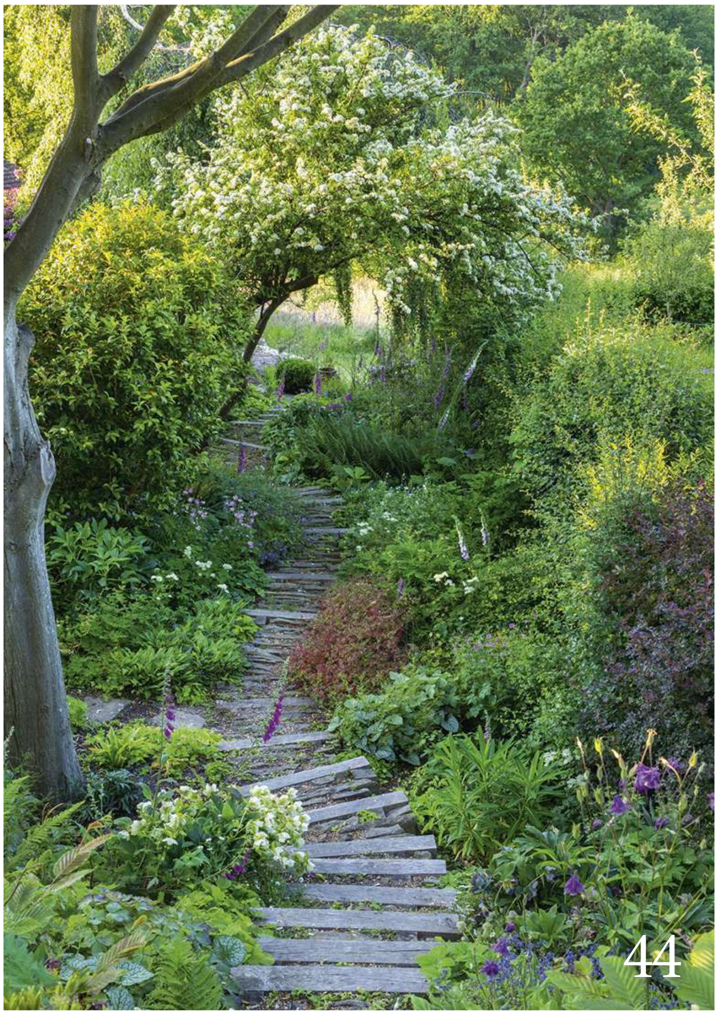
People

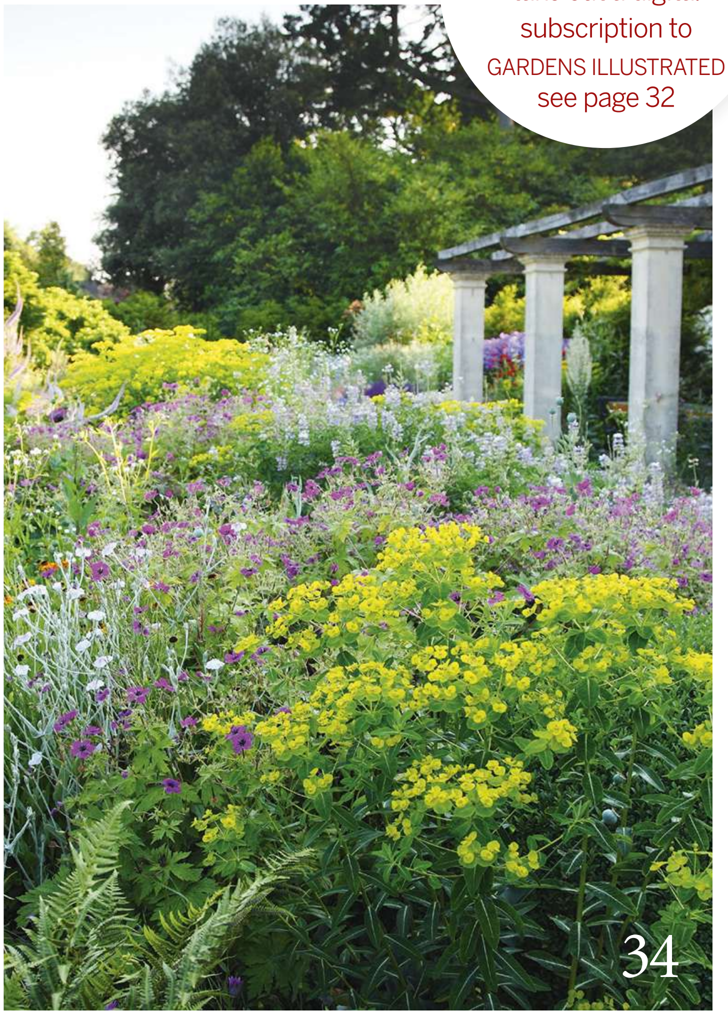
62 **Natural talent** Artist Rebecca Louise Law's hanging garden installations allow us to marvel at the enduring beauty of flowers, from the first flush right through to their faded glory

SIETSKE DE VRIES, SABRINA ROTHE

Subscribe & save

take out a digital subscription to GARDENS ILLUSTRATED see page 32





74 **Who's who** The Specialist Nursery Days at Bingerden in the Netherlands celebrate their 20th anniversary this year. We talk to Eugénie van Weede, the driving force behind their success

122 **La dame aux japonicas** It wasn't until visiting a Japanese garden that columnist Frank Ronan stopped worrying about their short-lived flowers and realised just how elegant camellias can be

Design

87 **Design update** Including an award-winning installation at Kew Gardens, a new Andy Goldsworthy sculpture and news of a community-led linear park in Peckham

92 **Design ideas** Designer Sarah Price concludes her series by reminding us to get into the habit of looking closely as a way of sparking new ideas

97 **Design sourcebook** Give yourself a step up with our guide to the best garden ladders

MARIANNE MAJERUS, ANNAÏCK GUITTENY

Regulars

3 **Editor's letter**

6 **Contributors**

13 **Dig in** This month: news of a double-cropping raspberry and celebrating a coastal garden

19 **Kitted out** for a day on the allotment

27 **Gardener cook** Enjoy your courgettes when they are small, urges allotmenteer Jojo Tulloh. Plus a recipe for Romanian strawberry jam

31 **Gardening talent** Meet Abi and Tom Attwood, the couple behind Halecat Plants in Cumbria

32 **Subscription offer** Save money when you take out a subscription to the digital edition

105 **Books** Our pick of the latest books, including *Landskipping* by Anna Pavord

112 **Crossword and how to buy back issues**

115 **Shop** Visit the *Gardens Illustrated* online shop for a range of practical and stylish gardening kit

121 **Next issue** What's coming up in July

EVENTS AND OFFERS

- Win one of five pairs of tickets* for the charity preview evening at **GROW London** – page 9
- Join our June Reader Days at **Great Dixter** and **Highgrove** – page 11
- Save money when you **subscribe to the digital edition** – see page 32

Harrod
HORTICULTURAL
UK DESIGN & MANUFACTURE SINCE 1954

MADE TO MEASURE & BESPOKE DESIGN SERVICES AVAILABLE

• FRUIT CAGES • RAISED BEDS & PLANTERS
• ARCHES • PERGOLAS • OBELISKS & SUPPORTS
• GREENHOUSES & EQUIPMENT • WATERING
• NETTING & PROTECTION • COMPOSTING

10% OFF QUOTE SXADGL5

CALL 0333 400 1500 (local rate)
VISIT www.harrodhorticultural.com

contributors

PAUL DEBOIS

STEPHANIE DONALDSON

As well as being the author of many gardening books, Stephanie writes for *Country Living* and *The Garden* and blogs as The Enduring Gardener. She lives in Hastings and this month visits the garden at nearby Fairlight End – see page 44.

"As someone who also has a hillside garden, I found plenty of inspiration and clever solutions when I visited Fairlight End."

ANNAICK GUITTENY

CHRIS LANE

Chris was trained in nursery stock production at Hadlow College, where he has subsequently worked as a lecturer. With a great interest in plant propagation, he now runs his own nursery and holds four National Plant Collections. Read his profile on *Wisteria* on page 66.

"What a pleasure to write an article on wisteria. For me the excitement increases rapidly as flowering time approaches."

CHARLIE RYRIE

Twelve years ago Charlie founded The Real Cut Flower Garden, providing relaxed arrangements of home-grown flowers for events and weddings. She loves unfussy, simple and unusual flower combinations. Be inspired by her gorgeous buttonhole posies on page 50.

"My own style is through a hedge backwards, so perhaps that's why I love buttonholes for that whiff of floral elegance."

ANNAÏCK GUITTENY

When not working on her series of 'Seascapes' recording winter storms, Annaïck travels widely – especially in her home country of France – to photograph gardens and plants for numerous magazines. See page 34 for her shots of the romantically planted Malverleys garden in Hampshire.

"It has been a real pleasure to witness and record the development of the gardens at Malverleys over the past couple of years."

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES AND BACK ISSUES

☎ **UK** 0844 844 0253
USA/CANADA 1 866 464 8103 (TOLL-FREE)
REST OF THE WORLD +44 (0)1795 414721

UK gardensillustrated@servicehelpline.co.uk
buysubscriptions.com/gardensillustrated
USA/CANADA GILcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com
britsubs.com/garden

✉ **UK/REST OF THE WORLD** *Gardens Illustrated*, Subscriptions, Dovetail Services, PO Box 279, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DF.
USA/CANADA *Gardens Illustrated*, PO BOX 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495 USA.

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

☎ +44 (0)117 314 8817 | heather.golden@immediate.co.uk

EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES

☎ +44 (0)117 314 7440 | gardens@gardensillustrated.com

✉ *Gardens Illustrated*, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited,
2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

SYNDICATION & LICENSING

Gardens Illustrated is available for licensing and syndication.

☎ +44 (0)117 314 8782 | emma.brunt@immediate.co.uk

APP SUPPORT

For App support please visit apps.immediate.co.uk/support

We abide by IPSO's rules and regulations. To give feedback about our magazines, please visit immediate.co.uk, email editorialcomplaints@immediate.co.uk or write to Katherine Conlon, Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN.

MAGAZINE CONTACTS

EDITORIAL	
Editor	Juliet Roberts
Contributing editors	Alys Fowler, Fergus Garrett, Daniel J Hinkley, Carol Klein and Dan Pearson
Art director	David Grenham
Deputy editor	Sorrel Everton
Deputy art editor	Niki Goss
Production editor	Juliet Giles
Designer	Liam McAuley
Editorial assistant	Alys Hurn
Botanical adviser	Dr James Compton
Thanks this issue	Chris Jones and Siobhan Kelly
ADVERTISING	
Advertising manager	Heather Golden **0117 314 8817** heather.golden@immediate.co.uk
Senior brand sales executive	Katie Gibbons **0117 933 8072** katie.gibbons@immediate.co.uk
Brand sales executive	Olivia Charlesworth **0117 314 8361** olivia.charlesworth@immediate.co.uk
Classified sales executive	Max Spalton **0117 300 8530** max.spalton@immediate.co.uk
USA advertising representative	Kate Buckley buckley@buckleypell.com
Advertising designer	Matt Gynn
INSERTS	
Laurence Robertson	+353 (0)876 902208
CIRCULATION, MARKETING, PRESS & PR	
Newstrade manager	Rob Brock
Subscriptions director	Jacky Perales-Morris
Direct marketing manager	Julie Sewell
Press officer	Dom Lobley dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk
MANAGEMENT	
Chairman	Stephen Alexander
Chief executive officer	Tom Bureau
Managing director, Bristol	Andy Marshall
Publisher	Marie Davies
Publishing assistant	Rosa Sherwood
SYNDICATION AND LICENSING	
Director of licensing and syndication	Tim Hudson
PRODUCTION	
Production director	Sarah Powell
Production co-ordinator	Emily Mounter

IMMEDIATE MEDIA CO
THIS MAGAZINE IS OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY IMMEDIATE MEDIA COMPANY BRISTOL

Standard subscription rates: UK £58.50 per annum; Eire and Europe £54.10 for 13 issues; rest of the world £64.95 for 13 issues. Distribution Frontline, Peterborough. US distribution Source IPD/Speedimpex. Email intlquery@seymour.co.uk Printed in the UK by William Gibbons Ltd. *Gardens Illustrated* (ISSN 0968-8920) (USPS 015-608) is published 13 times a year (monthly with a Special issue in December) by Immediate Media Company Bristol, 2nd Floor, Tower House, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BN, UK. Distributed in the US by Circulation Specialists, LLC, 2 Corporate Drive, Ste. 945, Shelton, CT 06484. Periodical postage paid at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Gardens Illustrated*, PO Box 37495, Boone, IA 50037-0495. Unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or transparencies are accepted on the understanding that the publishers incur no liability for their storage or return.

The contents of this magazine are fully protected by copyright and may not be reproduced without permission.

The *Gardens Illustrated* cover is printed on 250gsm Respecta Gloss produced in Belgium by Burgo; the china clay filler is supplied from the UK. The Immediate Media Company Limited is working to ensure that all of its paper is sourced from well-managed forests. This magazine can be recycled for use in newspapers and packaging. Please remove any gifts, samples or wrapping and dispose of it at your local collection point. All prices are correct at time of going to press.

© Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited 2015.

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation. ISSN 0968-8920.

recycle
When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

abc Jan-Dec 2015
38,471*
*Combined print and digital sales

Meander Seat in Oak

GAZE BURVILL

OUTDOOR FURNITURE & KITCHENS

Outdoor Kitchens | Dining Tables & Chairs
Loungers | Outdoor Sofas | Tree Seats | Benches

T: 01420 588444 E: info@gazeburvill.com
www.gazeburvill.com

ALITEX™

GREENHOUSES AND CONSERVATORIES

National Trust

THE NATIONAL TRUST GREENHOUSE COLLECTION

www.alitex.co.uk 01730 826900

Competition

Win tickets to GROW London

GROW London brings together the worlds of horticulture and design and is bursting with ideas for transforming your outdoor space no matter how large or small. Whether you're looking for greenhouses, garden furniture, sculpture, pots and accessories or rare and hard-to-find plants from specialist nurseries, GROW London is the garden event to visit.

Where and when

Held on Hampstead Heath, GROW London runs from 24-26 June 2016. On the evening of Thursday 23 June there is a special Garden Party Charity Preview. Find out more at **growlondon.com**

How to enter our competition

We have five pairs of tickets to the Garden Party Charity Preview* held on Thursday 23 June, 6-9pm. At this special preview event, you'll be among the first to choose plants and products to buy, plus enjoy complimentary cocktails and receive a GROW tote bag, perfect for carrying home plants and shopping.

For your chance to win tickets to the Garden Party Charity Preview, please answer the following question.

Which charity is the beneficiary of this year's GROW London?

By post Send your answer on a postcard along with your name, address, telephone number and/or email to
Gardens Illustrated 235/GROW, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA.
Online at gardensillustrated.com

Closing date 12 June 2016

* Garden Party tickets also allow entry to the fair throughout public opening hours on 24-26 June.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

1 Promoter: *Gardens Illustrated*, Immediate Media Co, Bristol. 2 Entrants must be UK residents aged 18 years or older, excluding the Promoter's employees. 3 By entering you agree to be bound by all the rules of the promotion. 4 Only one entry per person allowed. 5 No responsibility accepted for lost, delayed, ineligible or fraudulent entries. 6 Closing date for entries is midnight on 12 June 2016. 7 There are five prizes of a pair of tickets to GROW London Garden Party Charity Preview on Thursday 23 June 2016, and a complimentary GROW tote bag. 8 Winners will be notified within 2 days and must then contact *Gardens Illustrated* within 3 days to confirm their prize. 9 The draw is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 10 For details of the winners send an SAE to Immediate Media Company Bristol within two months of the closing date. If any winner is unable to be contacted within one week of the closing date, the Promoter will offer the prize to a runner up. 11 Promoter reserves the right to substitute the prize with one of the same or greater value but there is no cash alternative. 12 The promotion is subject to the laws of England. 13 Immediate Media Company Limited (publishers of *Gardens Illustrated*) would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Company Group. Please write 'Do not contact: Immediate Media Co Ltd' if you would prefer not to receive these. *Gardens Illustrated* would like to keep you informed of special offers and other promotions by newsletter, email or text message. Please write your email address and mobile number on your postcard if you would like to receive these. You may unsubscribe from these at any time. 14 GROW London would like to keep you informed of newsletters, special offers and other promotions by email or text message. Please write 'Do not contact: GROW London' on your entry if you would prefer not to receive these.

be
outdoors

cedar nursery

Bioclimatic Terrace Covers And Pergolas

Boasting French simplicity and sophistication, our elegant Biossun Pergolas feature integrated sensors that adjust the overhead louvres automatically when they detect changes in the weather. With natural temperature regulation and optional glass walls or powered blinds, the space can be used all year. ***Be outdoors with a Biossun Pergola***

Call
01932 862473

Click
landscaping.co.uk

Visit our Outdoor Living Cente - 7 days a week
Cedar Nursery, Horsley Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 3JX

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

Exclusive Reader Events 2016

Monday 20 June 2016

Celebrating Great Dixter

Join head gardener Fergus Garrett and garden writer Anna Pavord at Great Dixter to celebrate Christopher Lloyd's legacy and reflect on the garden's ongoing evolution

Great Dixter was the home of the late, great gardener and gardening writer Christopher Lloyd who spent a lifetime creating, refining and experimenting in the garden.

For our reader event, which marks ten years since Christo's death, world-renowned head gardener Fergus Garrett is joined by writer and friend of Christo, Anna Pavord, who will celebrate this legendary gardener's legacy and consider what Great Dixter achieves today in terms of gardening education and excellence.

Event details

- **Date** Monday 20 June 2016.
- **Venue** Great Dixter, Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH.

PROGRAMME

- **10.30am-2pm** Guests invited to enjoy the gardens at their leisure.
- **2-4.20pm** Talk from Fergus Garrett and Anna Pavord in the Great Hall (with a break at 3pm for refreshments).
- **4.30pm** Tea, scones, strawberries and a glass of Champagne Taittinger.

TICKETS

- Ticket £100, must be booked in advance.

Tickets and directions will be sent out prior to the event. Places are limited so booking is essential. Please advise us when booking of any dietary requirements or accessibility queries. For more details about the day itself call Great Dixter on 01797 254048 or go to greatdixter.co.uk. Great Dixter, Northiam, Rye East Sussex TN31 6PH.

TO BOOK
ONLINE **gardensillustrated.seetickets.com**
OR CALL UK **0871 230 7156**[†]
OVERSEAS **+44 115 896 0368**

A transaction fee applies to all bookings. [†]Calls will cost 10p per minute plus your telephone provider's access charge. Call charges from mobile phones may vary. *Gardens Illustrated* reserves the right to replace either of the speakers with other speakers of equal stature in the unlikely event that either of them is unable to attend. Tickets must be booked in advance.

Friday 24 June 2016

Garden tour at Highgrove

We are delighted to offer readers the chance to attend a special tour of the glorious gardens at Highgrove, the private home of TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall

Over 35 years in the making, the garden at Highgrove is one of the most creatively inspired in the world. A series of interlinked areas, each with its own character and purpose, weave around the house, reflecting the gardening ideals and organic principles of HRH The Prince of Wales. Your informative guided tour will allow you to appreciate the varied planting of the garden in its midsummer glory, with scent and colour in abundance. Highgrove Champagne and delicious canapés will be served after your tour.

Event details

- **Date** Friday 24 June 2016. • **Venue** Highgrove Garden, Tetbury, Gloucs.

PROGRAMME

- **5pm** Arrival, tea, coffee and handmade biscuits on the terrace.
- **5.30pm** Tour of the garden, lasting approximately two hours.
- **7.30pm** Highgrove Champagne and canapés served, plus the opportunity to browse the Highgrove Estate Shop (10% discount on any purchases).
- **9pm** Approximate finish.

TICKETS

- Tickets cost £95 per person. Places are limited so we recommend booking early to avoid disappointment. Tickets include a Highgrove guide book in a gift box, sent in advance, plus a *Gardens Illustrated* goody bag.

All profits from Highgrove Garden Tours, products and events are donated to HRH The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation.

Tickets are non-refundable and cannot be exchanged. We reserve the right to change any element of an event due to circumstances beyond our reasonable control. By attending the event you agree to be photographed and waive all rights, including moral rights, in any photography. Full details will be sent with a confirmation letter.

TO BOOK
ONLINE **highgroveshop.com/gioffer16**
OR CALL **0333 222 4555**[†]

[†] Lines are open Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. Calls are charged at local rates from UK landlines. Calls from mobiles may cost considerably more. Tickets must be booked in advance.

ELC 2016 EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE
GARDENS & LANDSCAPES IN CHANGING TIMES.
2–5 SEPTEMBER 2016. ROYAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY. CIRENCESTER. UK

DOES THIS MATTER?
OUR SPEAKERS THINK SO

JOIN PROFESSOR JAMES HITCHMOUGH,
NOEL FARRER, THOMAS DOXIADIS AND OTHERS
AT THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONFERENCE,
2–5 SEPTEMBER 2016.

The European Landscape Conference is a new platform to debate human interaction with nature in an increasingly urbanised world.

If you think this matters, and it could make a difference to what you do, BOOK NOW to be at the inaugural European Landscape Conference. Visit **www.europeanlandscapeconference.com** for full details.

SPONSORED BY:
SGD SOCIETY OF GARDEN DESIGNERS
LCGD LONDON COLLEGE OF GARDEN DESIGN
BALI British Association of Landscape Industries

Dig in

What's happening, where to go, what's in flower and what to buy this month

NEWS COMPILED BY **ALYS HURN**

PHOTO COMPETITION

Capture the castle

Beneath the imposing battlements of St Michael's Mount off the Cornish coast is a unique garden that seems to cling to the island's granite cliff face. As part of its Coastal Garden season, which runs until 1 July, the National Trust property is inviting visitors to post any images they take of the garden on its social media channels and enter the #seagarden competition. The season also includes talks and guided tours of the spectacular gardens which, although battered by salty winds, benefit from a microclimate tempered by the Gulf Stream, allowing succulents, palms and exotic plants such as *Strelitzia reginae* to grow happily. For details visit **stmichaelsmount.co.uk**

THE NATIONAL TRUST PHOTOLIBRARY / ALAMY

GEOFF'S GARDEN ORNAMENTS

5 FOOT, 2 TIERED FOUNTAIN IN A 5 FOOT, 10 INCH POOL BASE

EXTRA LARGE LOTUS BUDDHA

TWO LARGE GREAT DANES

PERGOLAS

LARGE FEMALE BUST

BUDDHA PATIO FOUNTAIN

VICTORIAN STYLE URNS ON SMALL PLINTH

HIGH QUALITY GARDEN STATUARY

Sold direct to public via manufacturers at trade prices

Unit B + C, Gravel Lane, Chichester | 01243 532 357

WWW.GEOFFS-GARDEN-ORNAMENTS.CO.UK

ROSE FESTIVAL

Blooming lovely

Immerse yourself in the heady scent of midsummer roses, including the lovely white rambler *Rosa* 'Seagull' (shown here), during Rose Weekend (18-19 June) at RHS Rosemoor, in Devon. Part of the garden's month-long rose festival, the weekend offers expert advice on rose identification and the opportunity to buy unusual cultivars as well as rose-care products. You can also take a guided walk around the stunning rose gardens and browse the floral-themed craft market. Gardens are open 10am-6pm each day and entry to the festival is included in the normal garden admission price. rhs.org.uk

RHS

NEW CULTIVAR

Flavour of France

A new self-supporting, primocane raspberry from DT Brown is available to buy from early June. Raspberry 'Paris' has an upright habit, which makes it ideal for growing in pots or containers, and is a double-cropper: producing fruit once in the autumn and again in June if the canes are left rather than cut down. Its large, conical berries are packed with aromatic, sweet and juicy flavours. One well-established plant in a 9cm pot costs £8.95 from **dtbrownseeds.co.uk**

OPEN GARDEN DAYS

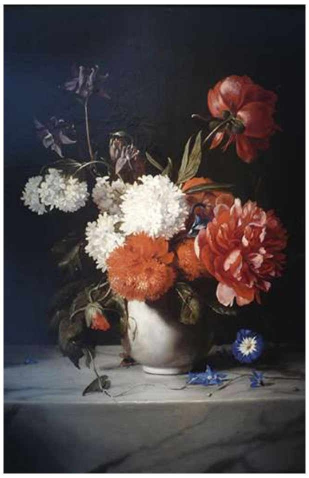
Behind closed doors

If you've ever wished you could take a peek behind some of the houses that line Amsterdam's canals, then the Open Garden Days, 17-19 June, offers you the chance to do just that. More than 30 gardens open for the weekend, offering enthusiasts the chance to see the normally hidden formal parterres, contemporary planting and remarkable gardens. A passe-partout offers access to all the gardens for €20 (€18 in advance) from **museumvanloon.nl**

SCENTED REPELLENT

Deter pesky insects this summer with a citronella candle in a stylish cream and black holder from Heyland & Whittle. Its luscious lemon-like fragrance masks the scents insects find attractive, allowing you to enjoy al fresco dining in peace. £6 each from heylandandwhittle.co.uk

HEYLAND & WHITTLE
SOAP & HERBAL MERCHANTS



EXHIBITION

Dutch masters

Dutch Flowers, a new exhibition at the National Gallery, London, explores Dutch flower painting from its origins in the early 17th century to its peak in the late 18th century. Featuring works, such as *Floral Still Life*, 1671 by Dirck de Bray (left), this free exhibition is the first of its kind in the UK for more than 20 years. Until 29 August, 10am-6pm. **nationalgallery.org.uk**

NEW NURSERY

Baby steps

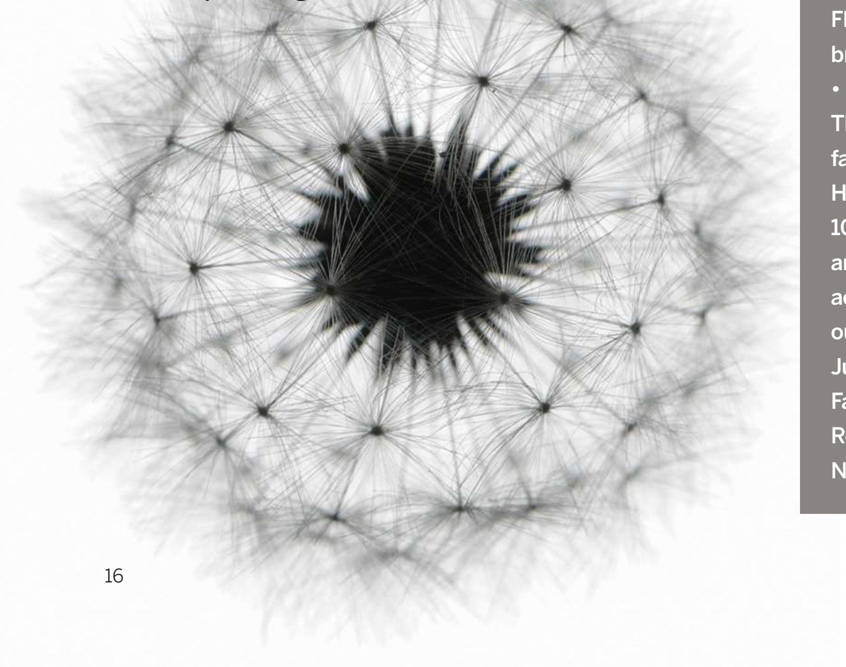
GARDEN ENTRANCE
HERBS

Kilver Court in Somerset has opened a new garden nursery offering an eclectic mix of British-grown, herbaceous, alpine and subtropical plants from specialist growers. Many of the plants on offer are those the Kilver Court and Mulberry founder Roger Saul is using as part of his extensive plans to restore Kilver Court gardens. **kilvercourt.com**

SURVEY

Time to go wild

Wild-flower charity Plantlife was shocked in 2013 to discover that 70 per cent of the children it surveyed had never told the time with a dandelion clock. In an attempt to revive interest in forgotten British wild flowers, Plantlife has teamed up with cereal company Nature's Path to encourage children across the UK to take part in a survey. The charity hopes that by challenging them to spot 15 common wild flowers and record their findings on an interactive map, it will help them to reconnect with nature. **wildaboutplants.org.uk**



Diary

GROW London.

- **Festival of Gardens**
A new nine-day festival will highlight a selection of relatively unknown gardens surrounded by Snowdonia's stunning scenery. 28 May – 5 June. See website for details of ticket prices and gardens. Tel 01492 531731, gardensnorthwales.co.uk
- **Claire Austin Open Day**
Perennials expert Claire Austin opens her private garden for two days this month. 4 and 16 June, 10am-4pm, Claire Austin Hardy Plants, White Hopton Farm, Wern Lane, Sarn, Newtown, Powys SY16 4EN. Tel 01686 670342, claireaustin-hardyplants.co.uk
- **British Flowers Week**
Celebrate British-grown, flowers and the work of independent florists at London's New Covent Garden Flower Market. 13-19 June. britishflowersweek.com
- **GROW London**
The contemporary garden fair returns to Hampstead Heath showcasing more than 100 exhibitors of rare plants and flowers, pots, planters, accessories and tools, and outdoor furniture. 24-26 June, 11am-6pm, £16. Lower Fairground Site, East Heath Road, Hampstead, London NW3 1TH. growlondon.com
- **Garden Open Day at Rockcliffe and Upton Wold**
Two Cotswold gardens, Rockcliffe and Upton Wold, will open in June to raise funds for the Garden Museum. 25 June, 10am-6pm. £15 each or £25 for two. Tel 07941 308379 (Rockcliffe) or 01386 700667 (Upton Wold) or visit gardenmuseum.org.uk
- **Woburn Abbey Garden Show**
Now in its seventh year, the show has been extended to include handmade gifts and gardening products plus a new area for independent food suppliers. 25-26 June, 10am-5pm. £11.50. Woburn Abbey Gardens, Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9WA. Tel 01525 290333, woburnabbey.co.uk
- **Marina Christopher course**
Plantswoman Marina Christopher takes a break from writing her *Gardens Illustrated* column to host a series of plantsman days at Bury Court in Surrey. Her Red, white and blue event in June celebrates HM the Queen's 90th birthday. 29 June, 11.30am-2pm. £7.50. Bury Court, Bentley, nr Farnham, Surrey GU10 5LZ. Tel 01420 560695, burycourtbarn.com

FLOWERPHOTOS/UIG VIA GETTY IMAGES

BarlowTyrie
Quality since 1920
solex
SUMMER OUTDOOR LIVING EXHIBITION
Aura

Barlow Tyrie has been making exceptional outdoor furniture since 1920, with collections in stainless steel, premium teak wood, virgin aluminium, and woven resin. Recipient of eighteen international design excellence awards.

Barlow Tyrie Limited, Braintree CM7 2RN, England
Tel: **+44 (0)1376 557 600** Email: **sales@teak.com** Visit: **www.TEAK.com**

ADVERTISEMENT

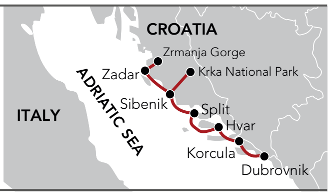
NOBLE CALEDONIA

SMALL SHIP CRUISING
FROM ONLY £1895 PER PERSON

25 YEARS NOBLE CALEDONIA 1991 2016

HIDDEN CROATIA

A seven night cruise exploring Croatia's hidden beauty aboard the Royal Eleganza



Experience hidden Croatia aboard the charming Royal Eleganza. The region offers breathtaking natural beauty, intriguing history, stunning architecture and a wonderfully tranquil and peaceful atmosphere. Our unique cruise covers the coast and rivers of Croatia with the additional benefit of mooring in the immediate vicinity of town centres allowing for evenings spent ashore.

Our itinerary includes a range of scenic delights – the Zrmanja Gorge, the world-famous Kornati Islands, plus the dramatic waterfalls of Krka and the River Cetina which whilst relatively unknown is surrounded by some truly magnificent scenery. We also visit the historic towns of Zadar, Sibenik, Split and Dubrovnik, with their history dating back through the Middle Ages to the Roman Era and the delightful islands of Hvar and Korcula, with their marble streets and impressive architecture.

The Itinerary in Brief

Day 1 London to Dubrovnik, Croatia. Fly by scheduled flight. Upon arrival enjoy lunch before transferring to the Royal Eleganza where the crew will welcome us aboard. Dinner is then served and the ship moors overnight.

Day 2 Dubrovnik & Korcula. After breakfast, enjoy a guided walk through this breathtaking city. Dubrovnik's many historic and cultural treasures have earned it designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the major attractions such as the Rector's Palace, the Romanesque-Gothic Dominican and Franciscan Monasteries, and the Sponza Palace. Relax on board this afternoon as we sail to Korcula. Enjoy some free time here before dinner on board.

Day 3 Hvar. This morning we sail to Hvar. Arrive this afternoon and take a tour to the Old Town starting in the main square which is the largest piazza in Dalmatia. We will also see the cathedral, and the palatial quarter of Grad and the more humble residential area of Burg. Return to the ship to dine on board.

Day 4 River Cetina & Split. Cruise this morning to Omis. Here we will board small boats for the trip along the valley of the emerald green River Cetina. Over centuries, the river has cut a magnificent canyon into the mountains surrounding it. We arrive at Radmanove mlinice (Radman's Mills). Dating from 1722, the mill was used to grind cereals for the inhabitants of Omis. Sail for Split where we will moor overnight and this evening have the chance to dine in one of the many restaurants on the Riva promenade.

Day 5 Split & Sibenik. Enjoy a guided walking tour this morning through this fascinating city. See the Palace of Diocletian and the Old Town. Later, set sail for the historic town of Sibenik. Visit the Cathedral of St. James, and the St. Nicholas Fortress. There is a further opportunity to dine independently tonight in one of the local restaurants.

Day 6 Krka National Park & Zadar. Today we will visit the spectacular waterfalls of Krka. We will take a walk along wooden jetties and bridges to admire the falls, and the unique flora and fauna. This afternoon we set sail for Zadar, passing through the group of islands making up the world famous archipelago of the Kornati National Park. Tonight, dine independently ashore in one of the many local restaurants.

Day 7 Zadar & Zrmanja Gorge. After breakfast, join the guided walk through Zadar, after which there will be an excursion to the Zrmanja Gorge. We will board a motor launch for the one hour cruise to Obrovac, where we will enjoy a lunch of local specialities before taking a walk. Return to the Royal Eleganza and meet later for the Captain's Dinner.

Day 8 Zadar to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to Split for your scheduled flight to London.

Royal Eleganza

For this unique itinerary we have chartered the 31 passenger Royal Eleganza. This beautifully crafted vessel was built in 2012 specifically for sailing the Dalmatian Coast. She features a spacious Sun Deck with adequate shade for all passengers to relax outside; complemented with a bar and comfortable sun loungers, it is the perfect place to watch the passing scenery. Dining on board is a casual affair with lunch and dinner featuring locally sourced fresh food including fresh fish. In good weather we will enjoy a barbecue, and you may wish to eat al fresco. The 16 cabins are each equipped with a safe, air conditioning/heating, hairdryer and a flat screen TV. Each cabin also has an en-suite bathroom with shower. With just 31 like-minded passengers, the atmosphere onboard is friendly and informal.

2017 Departure Dates, Prices & Inclusions

Dubrovnik to Zadar: 1st, 15th, 29th May; 12th, 26th June; 4th, 18th September

Zadar to Dubrovnik: 24th April; 8th, 22nd May; 5th, 19th June; 11th, 25th September (Itinerary is the reverse of that shown and can be viewed at www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)

Prices per person based on double occupancy range from **£1895** for a category 1 cabin to **£2895** for a category 3 cabin. Cabins for sole use from **£2895**.

What's Included:

- Economy class scheduled air travel
- Seven nights aboard the Royal Eleganza, breakfast and lunch daily
- Dinners on days 1, 2, 3 and 7.
- Wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner onboard
- Shore excursions
- Noble Caledonia Manager
- Gratuities
- Transfers

NB. Ports and itinerary subject to change. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations are available on request. Travel insurance and dinners on days 4, 5 and 6 are not included in the price.

ABTA V321X

3108 ATOL PROTECTED

For full details on this holiday call us today on **020 7752 0000** for your copy of our brochure. Alternatively view or request online at **www.noble-caledonia.co.uk**

NOBLE CALEDONIA
SMALL SHIPS - BIG EXPERIENCES

Get kitted out

for the allotment

COMPILED BY ROSANNA MORRIS

Gardener's Pail, £34, 01328 820699, carriercompany.co.uk

Essentials Coldframe, £245, 01829 271890, gabrielash.com

Rhubarb Forcer, £39.95, 0345 605 2505, worm.co.uk

Haws 8 Litre Slimcan, £45, 0333 400 1500, harrodhorticultural.com

Uashmama Paper Lunch Bag in avana, £35, 020 8520 8814, debbieblisshome.com

Forest Natural Timber Overlap Apex Pressure Treated Wooden Shed, £175, 0345 077 8888, homebase.co.uk

Folding Bistro Bench in clay, £100, 0845 608 4448, gardentrading.co.uk

Hartford Straw Fedora Hat, £38, 00800 0026 8476, anthropologie.com

Coastal Metal Coolbox in red, £54.99, argos.co.uk

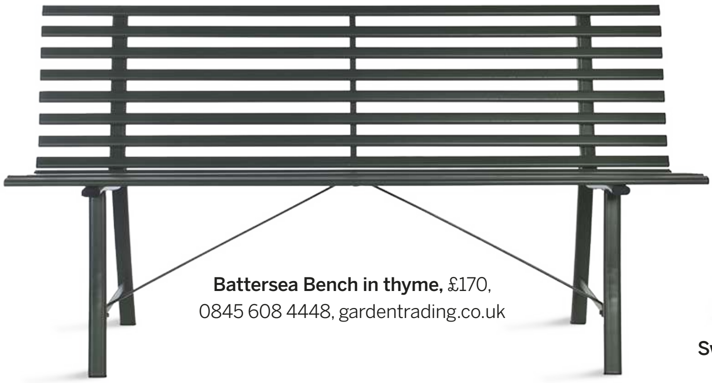
Wooden Composter, £280, 0345 605 2505, worm.co.uk

Enamel Tumbler in pillarbox red, £6, 020 7837 9749, falconenamelware.com

• **Turn over** for more products

Get kitted out
for the allotment

Pea Pod Tote Bag, £20, 020 7831 2878, thornbackandpeel.co.uk



Battersea Bench in thyme, £170, 0845 608 4448, gardentrading.co.uk

Swedish Wheel Hoe, £184, 0800 096 0938, manufactum.co.uk

Gold Lunch Tin, £15.95, 01225 461049, bloomsburystore.com

Potato Harvesting Scoop, £14.95, 0114 233 8262, burgonandball.com

Digging Fork, €111.89, +31 (0)228 511 365, sneeboer.com

Sirius Hoe, £65, 0845 330 3148, implementations.co.uk

Suitcase Style Barbecue, £55, 0800 587 7645, amara.com

Bucket Bag Green, £25, 020 7729 6253, labourandwait.co.uk

Britannia Bicycle in midnight blue, from £675, 01789 292263, pashley.co.uk

Seed Storage Box, £24, 01844 217060, henandhammock.co.uk

Roberts Revival Mini DAB/FM Digital Radio in black, £139.95, 03456 049049, johnlewis.com

verdongrey

inspirational outdoor style

Verdon Grey offers stylish, all weather furniture that can be used indoors or out. With years of experience in supplying five star, hotels, spas and resorts, many people enjoy our furniture in prestigious locations. Now you can enjoy it at home.

Superior in performance, our furniture is designed, built and tested for regular use, all year round, with little or no maintenance. Verdon Grey provides a choice of weather resistant materials, designed to be mixed or matched, to achieve that boutique hotel experience at home.

Try our sustainably sourced teak combined with stainless steel and UK upholstery or our all weather weaves with lightweight, rust resistant aluminium. All pieces can be left outdoors all year round.

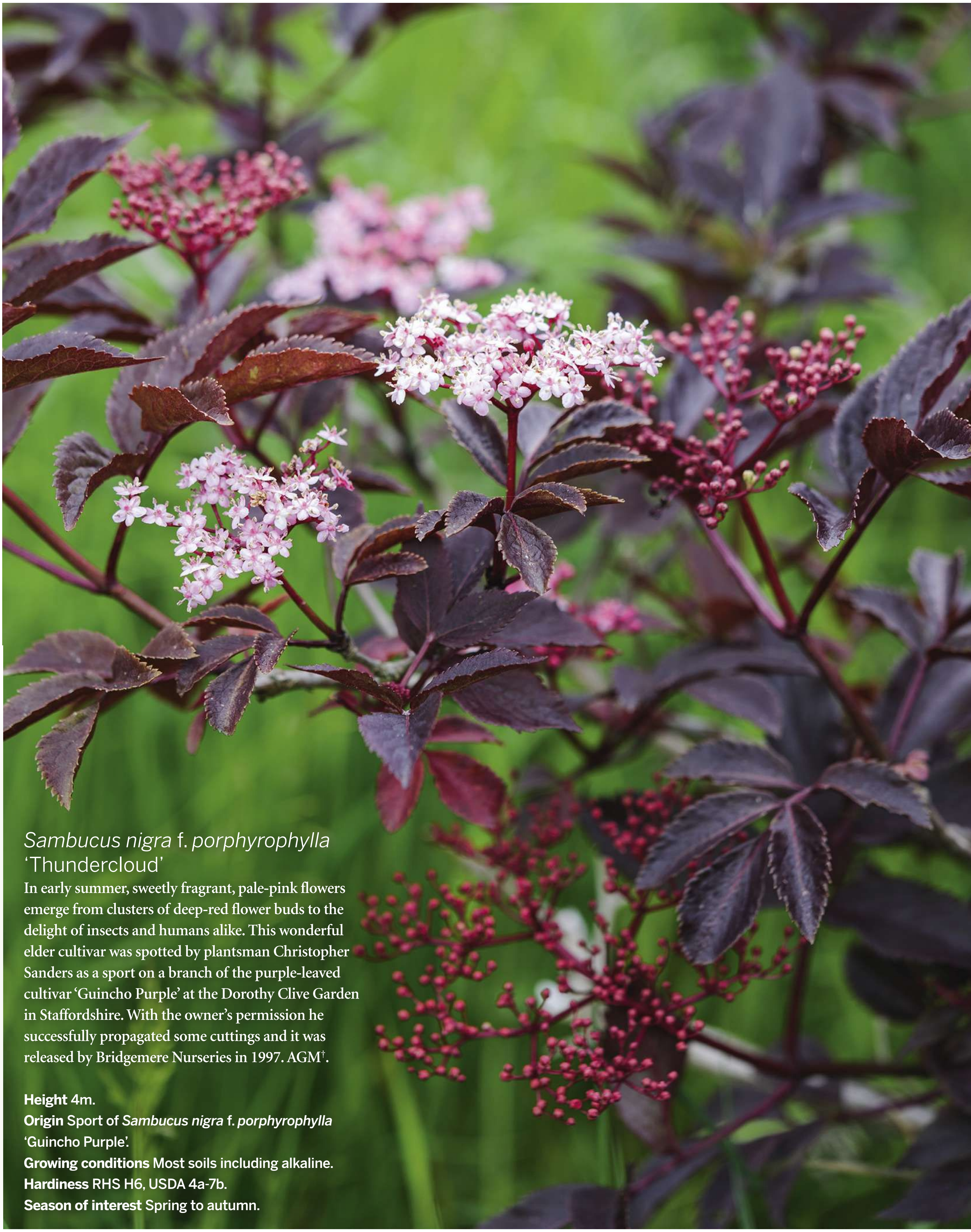
Come visit us at GROW London
24th - 26th June 2016
Hampstead Heath, stand no. E9

25 COMPLIMENTARY GROW LONDON TICKETS
are on a first come first serve basis, apply to
info@verdongrey.co.uk

You can buy Verdon Grey online and at special venues only. We give excellent value and sophisticated practicality with our built to last, designer looks. Browse our website to see how you could enhance any location with our furniture. Comprehensive stocks are available for immediate dispatch from our Suffolk warehouse.

For more information
call 01284 812000

www.verdongrey.co.uk



Sambucus nigra f. *porphyrophylla* 'Thundercloud'

In early summer, sweetly fragrant, pale-pink flowers emerge from clusters of deep-red flower buds to the delight of insects and humans alike. This wonderful elder cultivar was spotted by plantsman Christopher Sanders as a sport on a branch of the purple-leaved cultivar 'Guincho Purple' at the Dorothy Clive Garden in Staffordshire. With the owner's permission he successfully propagated some cuttings and it was released by Bridgemere Nurseries in 1997. AGM†.

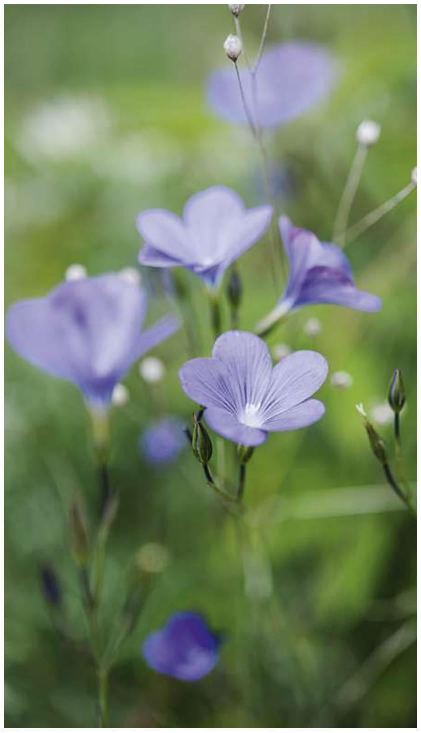
Height 4m.
Origin Sport of *Sambucus nigra* f. *porphyrophylla* 'Guincho Purple'.
Growing conditions Most soils including alkaline.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 4a-7b.
Season of interest Spring to autumn.

June plants

Plantswoman and ecologist Marina takes delight from the heady scents and sights of early summer in her selection of favourite plants for June

WORDS MARINA CHRISTOPHER PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM

Marina Christopher
is a plantswoman who
owns Phoenix Perennial
Plants in Hampshire*.



Linum narbonense

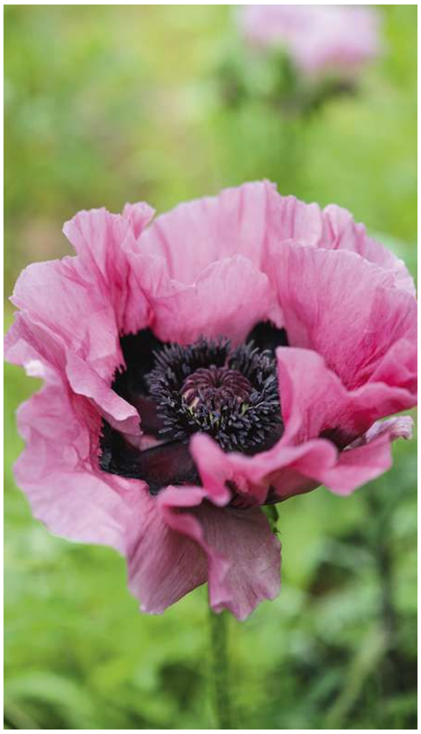
For me, this is the choicest blue flax I have grown. It is not often seen in the trade and inferior plants, possibly *Linum perenne*, are often sold under its name. It is distinct in holding clusters of upright flower buds, whereas other species have pendent buds. It also has a rather unruly habit, in that its many branches are held at 45-degree angles to the stem giving it a very angular appearance. In sun the large, azure-blue flowers unfurl with darker blue guidelines to lead insects into the funnel-shaped bloom to its clear white eye.

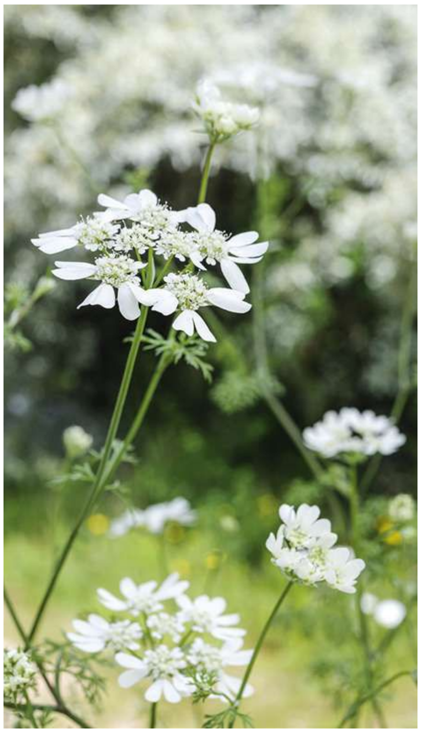
Height 45-60cm.
Origin Western and central Mediterranean, northern Spain, northeast Portugal.
Growing conditions Well-drained soil; sun.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 5a-9b.
Season of interest Late spring to summer.

Papaver orientale 'Lauren's Lilac'

Oriental poppies are stunning show stoppers in June and early July but leave a huge gap once the flowers have finished so you'll need to grow later herbaceous perennials to fill the space. 'Lauren's Lilac' is a subtle, black-blotched cultivar with lilac-mauve-infused petals raised from a seedling of 'Patty's Plum' by Valerie and David Menzies in Hampshire, and named after their granddaughter. Unlike 'Patty's Plum' it's less prone to burning and browning of the petals in direct sun.

Height 1m.
Origin Southwest Asia.
Growing conditions Rich soil; sun or dappled shade.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 2a-9b.
Season of interest Early summer.



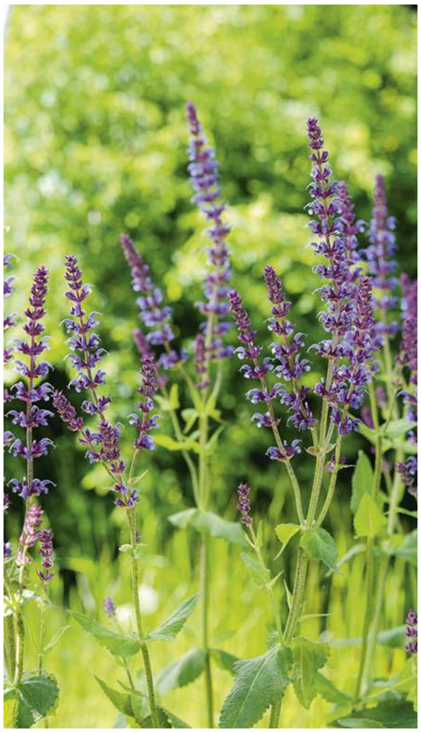


Orlaya grandiflora

This pretty annual, a relative of cow parsley, is popular for naturalistic plantings. It has fine, filigree foliage and large, flat-headed umbels of white flowers with much enlarged outer petals. Most umbellifer seeds require sowing fresh in autumn and winter so they receive a freeze/thaw regime that breaks down the inhibitors to germination. *Orlaya grandiflora* germinates readily in autumn but can be erratic in spring. Occasionally, the foliage turns yellow and mature plants collapse for no apparent reason; usually the result of carrot fly. AGM.

Height 30-45cm.
Origin Mediterranean.
Growing conditions Sharply drained, lean soil; sun.
Hardiness RHS H4.
Season of interest Summer.

*Open by appointment only. Email marina@phoenixperennialplants.co.uk for details. †Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.



Salvia pratensis 'Indigo'

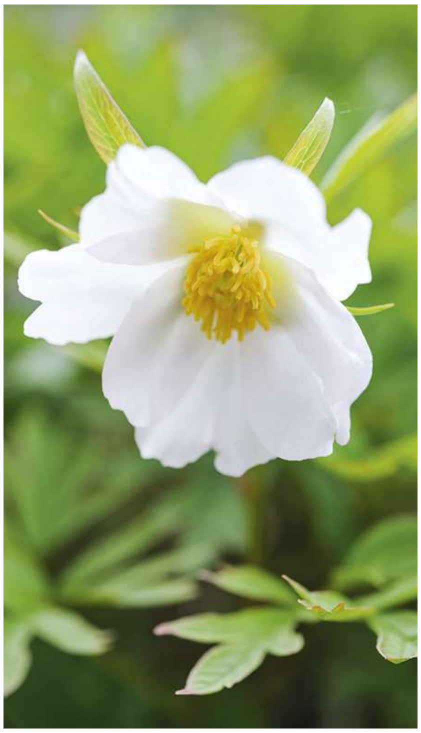
The meadow clary is one of two salvia species native to the British Isles, with blue flowers. In recent years, seed companies have offered a range of colour forms from white and pink to blue and purple. *Salvia pratensis* 'Indigo' was raised by Thomas Carlile at Loddon Nurseries in Twyford, Berkshire. It has a rosette of foliage and rather lax flower stems with a form resembling an upside-down pyramid so its top is wider than its base. The violet-blue, flower spikes are large for this species and very attractive to bees. This cultivar is raised by cuttings. AGM.

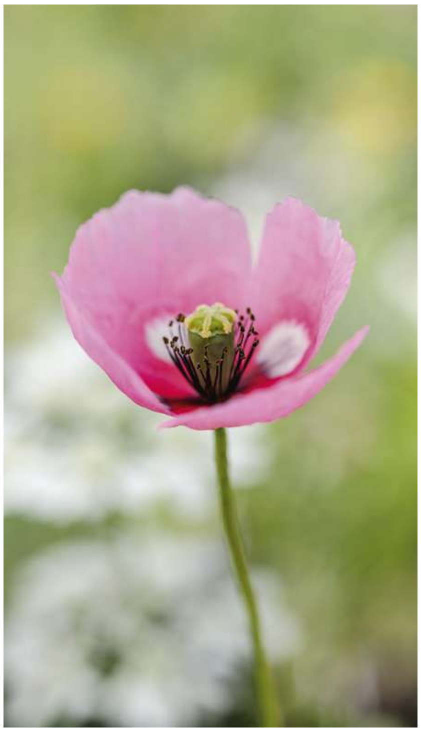
Height 90cm.
Origin Europe.
Growing conditions Well-drained soil; sun.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 7a-11.
Season of interest Summer.

Paeonia veitchii 'Alba'

When I first discovered this lovely peony I was told that it was 'as rare as hen's teeth' and this still appears to be the case. In late spring the deeply dissected foliage is a bronzy green, maturing to deep green during the summer months. Tight green and pointed pendent buds appear at the end of flowering stems and as they develop the palest pink, tightly rolled petals are evident. The slightly nodding flowers open to a pristine white with a central boss of yellow stamens emitting the most delicate, sweet fragrance.

Height 60-75cm.
Origin China.
Growing conditions Moisture-retentive soil; sun or dappled shade.
Hardiness RHS H5, USDA 6a-8b.
Season of interest Late spring to summer.





Papaver dubium subsp. *lecoqii* 'Albiflorum'

I first saw this delightful annual poppy, with small, tissue-like, pink petals and a white blotch towards the base, at Great Dixter where it has happily seeded around; its little pink heads bobbing around in the slightest breeze, cheek-by-jowl with other treasures creating a wonderful mosaic of colours and textures. The Beth Chatto garden was the source of the Great Dixter seed and the poppy is fondly called 'Beth's poppy'. Cleve West used it in his gold medal-winning garden at the 2014 Chelsea Flower Show.

Height 60cm.
Origin Europe.
Growing conditions Well-drained soil; sun.
Hardiness RHS H4.
Season of interest Early summer.

Places to visit

Recommended places to see seasonal plants at their best

When the flowers of *Sambucus nigra* are fully open, a heady fragrance fills the air reminding us of balmy summer evenings sipping elderflower cordial. To see a fine collection visit **Cotswold Garden Flowers**, where Ed Brown holds the National Collection of *Sambucus* and has bred many of the cultivars planted on the site. Call before visiting. Gibbs Lane, Offenham, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 8RR. Tel 01386 47337.

COTSWOLD GARDEN FLOWERS

Cotswold Garden Flowers.

The delightful Beth's poppy is at its best when it has happily seeded around and put itself into places it favours. With careful garden editing, self-seeders can look natural and inspiring. Nowhere is this achieved more successfully than at **Great Dixter**, the home of the late, great Christopher Lloyd and overseen so

Verbascum 'Petra'

Mulleins have always been popular for their tall flower spikes, which provide useful vertical accents in the garden. Most are yellow with purple stamens or occasionally white. A few species, notably *V. phoeniceum*, exhibit a colour range from white to purple. Hybridisation of *V. phoeniceum* and various perennial yellow species has resulted in some wonderful colour breaks. *V.* 'Petra' has unusual reddish-brown flowers and is one of several cultivars bred by Vic Johnstone and Claire Wilson who formerly held the National Collection of *Verbascum*.

Height 1.2m.
Origin Garden hybrid.
Growing conditions Well-drained soil; lightly dappled shade.
Hardiness RHS H6, USDA 4a-8b.
Season of interest Summer.

Zizia aurea

My interest in the umbellifer family (*Apiaceae*) tempted me to try some of the North American species and *Z. aurea* is one I have grown for several years. It has attractively dissected foliage and forms a rounded mound before it sends up sprays of small, yellow flowers in late spring and early summer. It is found in meadows and damp woods in its native habitat and appears relatively tolerant of most garden soil as long as it isn't too dry. Exhibited in recent show gardens at the Chelsea Flower Show, it is deservedly gaining attention.

Height 60-90cm.
Origin Eastern Canada, southern USA.
Growing conditions Moisture-retentive soil; sun or dappled shade.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 4a-9b.
Season of interest Late spring to summer.

Gillenia trifoliata

This plant has been one of my favourite hardy perennials since I started my first nursery more than 30 years ago. It is still one of my top ten plants as it exhibits great qualities throughout its growing season. Although a woodlander in its native country, I have found it performs best in full sun with a moisture-retentive soil. Pink shoots emerge in spring, its delicate white flowers are subtended by a showy red calyx, followed by beautiful seedheads and the foliage turns crimson in autumn. What more could you ask for? AGM.

Height 60-90cm.
Origin Northeastern USA, Canada.
Growing conditions Moisture-retentive soil; sun or dappled shade.
Hardiness RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.
Season of interest Spring to autumn.

brilliantly by head gardener Fergus Garrett. Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH. Tel 01797 252878, greatdixter.co.uk

Emerging peony foliage with its mahogany-red shoots suggests rich promise of things to come. Visit **West Green House Gardens** and discover massed planting of peonies along the dragon walk. West Green House Gardens, Thackham's Lane, nr Hartley Wintney, Hook, Hampshire RG27 8JB. Tel 01252 844611, westgreenhouse.co.uk

Sages are one of the most diverse plant families in flower colour, foliage, habitat and size. There is a salvia to suit almost any soil or situation found in the British Isles. To see an amazing range of sages visit the National Collection of salvia species held by **John and Lynsey Pink**. This is a wonderful plantsman's garden. Alongside the incredible range of salvias, are some interesting shrubs and several *Impatiens* species. Visitors by appointment only. 2 Hillside Cottages, Trampers Lane, North Boarhunt, Fareham, Hampshire PO17 6DA. Tel 01329 832786.

West Green House Gardens.

JILL SINCLAIR

MADE IN
BRITAIN

ANDREW CRACE

www.andrewcrace.com

Hatfield Wheelbarrow Seat

Waterproof Cotton Umbrellas

Park 2 Seater on Skids

Loggia Daybed

Medium Edo Seat painted White

Large Windsor Seat painted Bright Tioram

Versailles Planter 5 Sizes

Biddenham 3 Seater

Charles Over 2 Seater painted Morning Blue

Hadham High Table & Dior Chairs

Hadham Refectory Table & Chinoiserie Chairs

Combination Table

Traditional, Contemporary and Bespoke Interior & Garden Furniture. Made from hardwood Iroko or Oak

High Quality and Genuine British Products. Designed and individually Crafted and Made in Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, UK.

Andrew Crace, 33 Bourne Lane, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire SG10 6ER, UK. Tel 01279 842685
www.andrewcrace.com

MADE IN
BRITAIN

IN THE GARDEN

When it comes to courgettes Jojo discovers that small is beautiful

WORDS **JOJO TULLOH** ILLUSTRATIONS **SARAH YOUNG**

After all the hard work of propagating, transplanting, feeding and weeding, the gardener may well be tempted to leave rows of evenly spaced lettuces, carrots and beetroots intact, while the cook demands a steady supply of varied ingredients. Conflict arises for you as harvest gaps appear. If this causes the gardener in you pain, remind yourself that in a vegetable garden function must come before form. Your garden has a higher purpose than mere decoration – to provide you with the freshest ingredients picked in their prime.

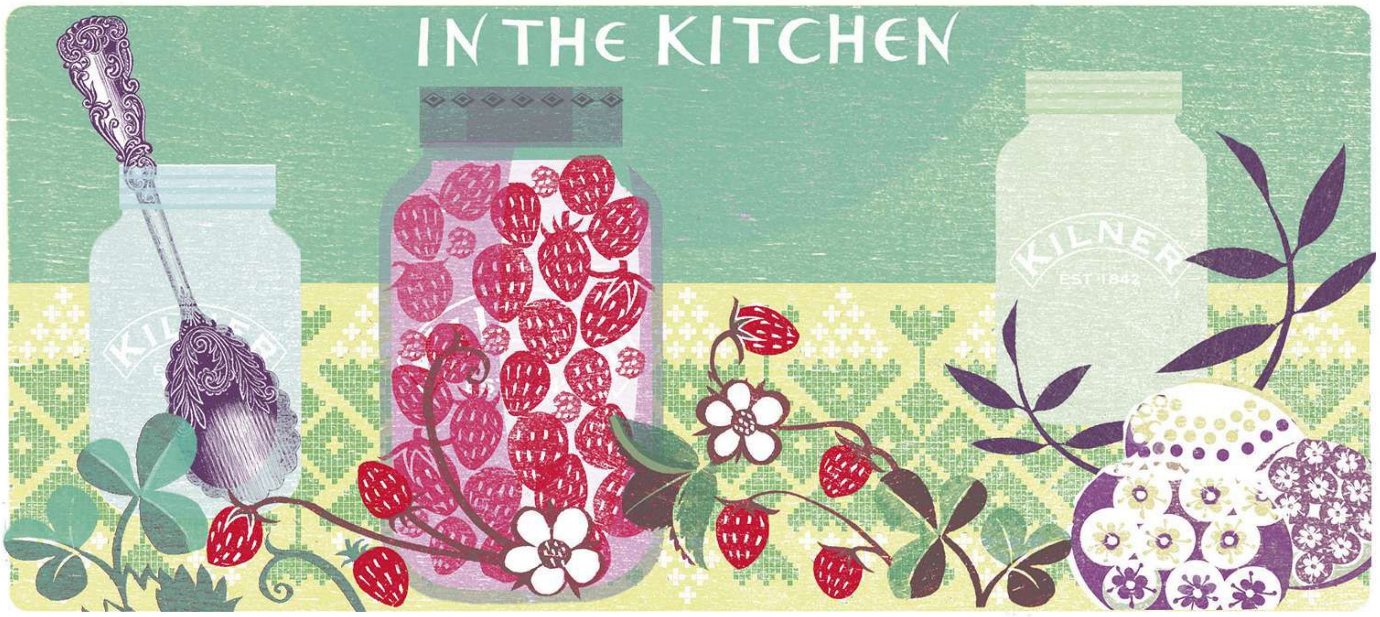
This often means not letting them get too big. The tradition of the show bench with its gargantuan, tasteless crops is an invidious one, and something Ambrose Heath in *The Country Life Cookery Book* suggests 'every cook… should fight to the death'. Nowhere is this more applicable than with courgettes, which are at their most sublime small. A good rule of thumb is to pick the courgettes not much longer than your index finger. Picking small also helps keep a check on gluts.

I have grown many different courgettes from the conventional dark-green, cylinder-shaped 'Bambino' and 'Nero Di Milano' to the spherical 'Tondo Chiaro Di Nizza' (good for stuffing), which is best harvested at the size of a cricket ball, and 'Tromboncino d'Albenga', a trailing or climbing cultivar (useful if you want to maximise space by growing up) with amusing long, curling, pale-green fruits best harvested at around 25cm long. Franchi Seeds (seedsofitaly.com) has cultivars from all over Italy, including 'Da Fiore Toscana', which produces few fruits and mainly male flowers, so ideal for those who prefer the flowers, which are delicious stuffed or dipped in batter. I adore the taste of yellow crookneck squash but find it too slow to get going so instead I am planting 'All Green Bush' (realseeds.co.uk), which is dark green with plentiful fruits over a long cropping period and 'Verde d'Italia', a good early courgette with a very fine flavour.

Couch grass is one of the most persistent weeds on the allotment. The roots spread in from turf edges and digging can exacerbate the problem, as any small pieces of root left behind will regrow. At Organiclea, a vegetable growing co-operative in Chingford, Essex, they edge their beds with vigorous growing plants, such as comfrey or Jerusalem artichoke. The aggressive nature of these plants forms a barrier and prevents the couch grass from spreading. This may only work if you have lots of space, otherwise a duckboard edging with a lip of weed suppressant fabric twice as deep as the wood and stapled down either side is better. Another useful plant for weed suppression is *Tagetes minuta*, known in the Andes as 'the sacred weed' for its helpful effect on eelworm in potatoes. This tall, small-flowered marigold has roots that secrete thiophenes (substances containing sulphur), which have prophylactic effects on bindweed, ground elder and to a lesser extent couch grass. ▷

WHAT TO DO NOW

- If gaps in your display really bother you, try keeping a few of each of your cultivars growing on in modules or small pots and transplant into any spaces as these occur. Now is the time to think ahead and sow (but only after the longest day) chicories for winter eating. The pale, speckled-red rosettes of 'Variegata di Castelfranco' (chilternseeds.co.uk) are popular with good reason but there are many others all highly tolerant of cold and wet.
- As you harvest, sow quick-growing seeds, such as salad mixtures, radishes, marigolds and nasturtiums, into empty patches. If you're planning a three sisters bed [issue 234, page 32], plant out sweet corn, pumpkin and beans now. Transplant cucumbers, aubergines and tomatoes into suitably hot and sunny corners. I chop a few comfrey leaves (rich in potash) and put them underneath each transplant as it goes in and feed weekly with comfrey tea. Stake your tomatoes (or grow up a string suspended from a pole) and pinch out side shoots. After lifting new potatoes, sow mustard to prevent eelworm and to enrich the soil. Trample it down after 8 -10 weeks and dig it in to break down like a spread-out layer of compost heap direct into the soil.



Courgettes are, according to that ever-wise French cookery writer Édouard de Pomiane, as 'delicate as asparagus or new garden peas'. I agree, picked small they are a great delicacy and should be cooked with care. I never let courgettes near water, preferring to bake, steam, fry or grill them.

De Pomiane suggests slicing small courgettes lengthways into 50mm batons and dipping them in a light batter. I have eaten them like this in both Greece and Italy where this dish is served as an appetiser (like a super-fresh version of crisps).

The thinner the batter the crisper it will be, although you'll inevitably lose some as it disperses in the oil. Using a fine pastry or pasta flour (00 grade) also helps make the batter smooth and lump free. For the batter you'll need 50g flour, a pinch of salt, one egg (separated, white reserved), one tablespoon olive oil, 150ml lager (you can substitute milk and water mixed half and half). Whisk the flour and salt together with the egg yolk and oil then whisk in the lager gradually to avoid lumps. Leave this mixture to rest for at least ten minutes, then whisk the egg white until stiff and gently fold it into the batter just before you are ready to start frying. Heat a little olive oil in a frying pan, dip the courgette battons into the batter (allowing a little to drip off) then pop into the pan and fry for three minutes on one side and two on the other. Sprinkle with sea salt (and a squeeze of lemon in you like). Ideally, use the batter straightaway although it will keep for a day in the fridge, it just won't be quite as light. This batter can also be used to fry courgette flowers.

USEFUL COOKERY TECHNIQUE

No. 6 *Elderflower vinegar*

Shake the flowers of several heads to get rid of pollen and small insects, dry in the sun for a day then break up and push the flower sprigs into a bottle of white wine or cider vinegar. After three weeks, strain and rebottle. Wonderful with cold fish.

Another way to eat courgettes is fried with *gremolata*. This Italian condiment is made of garlic, parsley and lemon zest. Usually sprinkled over *ossobuco alla milanese* (braised veal shanks), it goes well with vegetables of many kinds. Chop and finely mince one clove of garlic, finely chop a small bunch (about 6tbsp) of parsley, then combine with the zest of one lemon. Reserve, and then cut small courgettes into 2.5cm slices and gently fry in olive oil until soft and golden (about 15 minutes). Add the *gremolata* briefly to the pan (this 30-second sizzle helps the oil on the courgettes and the *gremolata* infuse). Season and serve immediately.

Broad beans have a wonderful affinity with the herb summer savory, which when grown as a companion plant helps repel blackfly. But this highly aromatic, slightly piquant herb is also an extremely good flavouring for all beans. Stir a teaspoon of finely chopped summer savory into a lemon and oil vinaigrette and then serve alongside broad beans, barely boiled in their pods then slipped out of their skins before serving. □

RECIPES

Romanian strawberry jam

Soft fruits have such a short season that it seems almost imperative to preserve some of them as jam and so prolong the pleasure. One of the joys of growing a wide variety of fruits is the chance to combine them in your own idiosyncratic conserves. In a book of farmhouse cookery I came across lots of Victorian suggestions for combined fruit jams, such as rhubarb and blackcurrant, cherry and gooseberry, greengage and red gooseberry, and the rather intriguingly named Romanian strawberry jam, which combines strawberries with redcurrant or gooseberry juice. If you have ever tried to make strawberry jam you will know that it is hard to get a good set as strawberries are low in pectin, so combining them with the sour, higher pectin juices of redcurrants is an excellent solution. **900g strawberries** (firm smallish, cut bigger ones in half), **800g sugar**, **300ml redcurrant juice** (rub the redcurrants through a fine sieve). Simmer the strawberries gently, when hot add the sugar and the juice. Stir over a low heat. When the sugar has dissolved, bring the heat up and boil rapidly (rapid boiling means less wastage and brighter colour), until the setting point is reached [issue 215, page 26], use a jug to pour into hot, sterilised jars and seal with circles of waxed paper and screw-on lids.

JS Garden Antiques

Pots & Ornaments

www.jsgardens.co.uk
01905 381679 / 07930 576881

ITALIAN TERRACE
EXCEPTIONAL TERRACOTTA

01284 789666 italianterrace.co.uk

PASHLEY MANOR
GARDENS
'One of the finest gardens in England'

SPECIAL ROSE WEEK
14th to 19th June
100+ varieties of rose in the garden; rose talks with Head Gardener; great selection of Peter Beales potted roses on sale

Ticehurst, East Sussex, TN5 7HE 01580 200888
pashleymanorgardens.com

Natural wildflower turf
from Lindum

Benefits of Wildflower turf

- Create beautiful swathes of wildflower meadows across the garden
- Prolonged flowering period
- Pre-grown wildflower turf, means that plants are ready established
- Attracts butterflies and pollinators
- Low maintenance

turf.co.uk/wildflower-turf
01904 448675
lindum@turf.co.uk
@lindumturf

Lindum
taking grass a step further

ALITAGS
PLANT LABELS

www.alitags.com

Annual labelling is a thing of the past with Alitags. Simply write on Alitag aluminium labels with Alitag or HB pencil. The pencil will react with our specially made aluminium tags and become permanent.

Alitag labels can also be punched with Alitag character punches & jig. Copper, Teak, Bamboo and Oak labels are also available.

33 Bourne Lane, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire SG10 6ER
United Kingdom. Tel 01279 842685 www.alitags.com

THE BRONZE COLLECTION

www.thebronzecollection.com

Large Snail 22 cms long

Pig 14 cms long

Owl on Stump 26 cms high

Reclining Cat 36 cms long

Lazy Frogs 6 sizes :10 - 42 cms

Three Fish Table 73 cms high

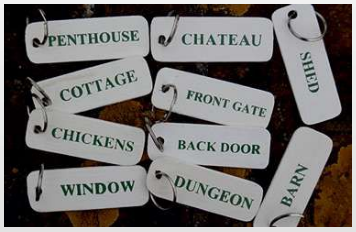
33 Bourne Lane, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire SG10 6ER, UK.
Tel 01279 842685 www.thebronzecollection.com

GIFTS & GARDENS

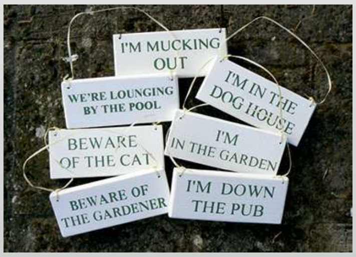
www.giftsandgardens.com

Bamboo Cloches

Made of bamboo woven into an open dome and available in 5 sizes plus a tunnel cloche. These attractive cloches protect plants and seeding from damageby animals, footballs, light frost and wind-chill. Fleece & newspaper can be used to cover the plants inside the cloches during periods of heavy frost. The micro climate inside the cloches promotes growth and allows rain through to the plants.


PENTHOUSE
CHATEAU
SHED
COTTAGE
FRONT GATE
CHICKENS
BACK DOOR
WINDOW
DUNGEON
BARN

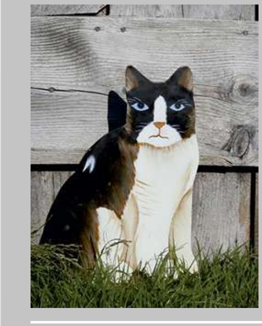
Wooden Keyrings : 95 Locations


I'M MUCKING OUT
WE'RE LOUNGING BY THE POOL
I'M IN THE DOG HOUSE
BEWARE OF THE CAT
I'M IN THE GARDEN
BEWARE OF THE GARDENER
I'M DOWN THE PUB

Hanging Wooden Signs : 70 Texts

Wooden Doorstops

GARDEN FRIENDS. Made from aluminium that will not rust, and painted beautifully by hands. Cats, Ducks, Fox, Hare, Owls, Pheasants, Rabbits, etc.



CANDLE LANTERNS. Made from iron with rust resistant paint. All have a window which can be opened at the back to place a night light candle within.

Stone Pot, several sizes

Wooden Hanging Baskets

33 Bourne Lane, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire SG10 6ER, UK. Tel 01279 842685

Abi and Tom Attwood

From their revitalised a nursery in Cumbria, Abi and Tom sell an excellent range of home-grown and tried-and-tested garden plants

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

What is your earliest gardening memory? Abi Digging up plants from my parents' garden aged seven and then trying to sell them back to them. **Tom** Growing weeds (rather unsuccessfully) in pots of garden soil at the age of eight.

Who has inspired your career the most? Abi Rob and Rosy Hardy of Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants. I met them both when I was 15 years old and they invited me to spend two weeks at their nursery. Those two weeks made my mind up that running a nursery was what I wanted to do for a living. **Tom** Tim Smitt, who wrote back to me when I was 13 and the Lost Gardens of Heligan were in their infancy. The project really fired my imagination.

Who are your horticultural heroes? Tom Piet Oudolf for his bold, exciting, innovative approach to planting, but also for his deep understanding and respect for the plants he grows, breeds and exchanges with fellow nurserymen and designers.

Three most worthwhile tips. Abi Experiment; get stuck in; use the knowledge of the wonderful independent nurseries we have in the UK.

Favourite planting style. Abi I very much like natural and relaxed herbaceous plantings. **Tom** For me it's prairie-style planting.

The hardest garden-related thing you've ever had to do
Abi and Tom Resurrecting the nursery and garden here at Halecat. We spent two years grappling with 20 years of neglect, dilapidated growing structures and a defunct plant collection.

What principles have guided your approach to gardening?
Abi Don't be afraid of gardening, learn by trial and error.
Tom Keep pushing your comfort zone and don't allow yourself to be constrained by convention.

What heartens you about our attitudes to horticulture today?
Tom I think gardeners now have a greater awareness of their impact on wildlife, whatever the scale of garden, and are actively pursuing plants that are great for pollinators and choosing not to use pesticides.

Most embarrassing gardening moment Tom During a packed garden festival demonstration I genuinely forgot the common name of *Myosotis* – aka forget-me-not! □

Contact Abi and Tom's Garden Plants, Halecat, Witherslack, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 6RT. halecatplants.co.uk

PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE
GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
The making of a new
English flower garden
20
OF THE BEST
WISTERIA
PERFECT PLANT
COMBINATIONS FOR
summer gardens
Bring back
the buttonhole
Let's wear flowers every day

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

Save when you subscribe
to the digital edition

Available from

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play

amazon apps Available on kindle fire

A must-have read for passionate gardeners, *Gardens Illustrated* magazine provides a unique insight into the world's most beautiful gardens, irresistible plants and clever design.

iPad
9:41 AM
english flower garden
Flowering ahead
With its colourful drifts of dreamy planting and numerous garden rooms, Malverleys in Hampshire is a garden to explore with wonder – and is all the more remarkable since it is only five years old
WORDS RORY DUSOIR PHOTOGRAPHS ANNAÏCK GUITTENY
In brief
PLANTING IDEAS • BEAUTIFUL GARDENS • EXPERT ADVICE
GARDENS ILLUSTRATED
The making of a new English flower garden
20 OF THE BEST WISTERIA
PERFECT PLANT COMBINATIONS FOR summer gardens
Bring back the buttonhole
Let's wear flowers every day

Enjoy our Premium App experience now available from

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play

amazon apps Available on kindle fire

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

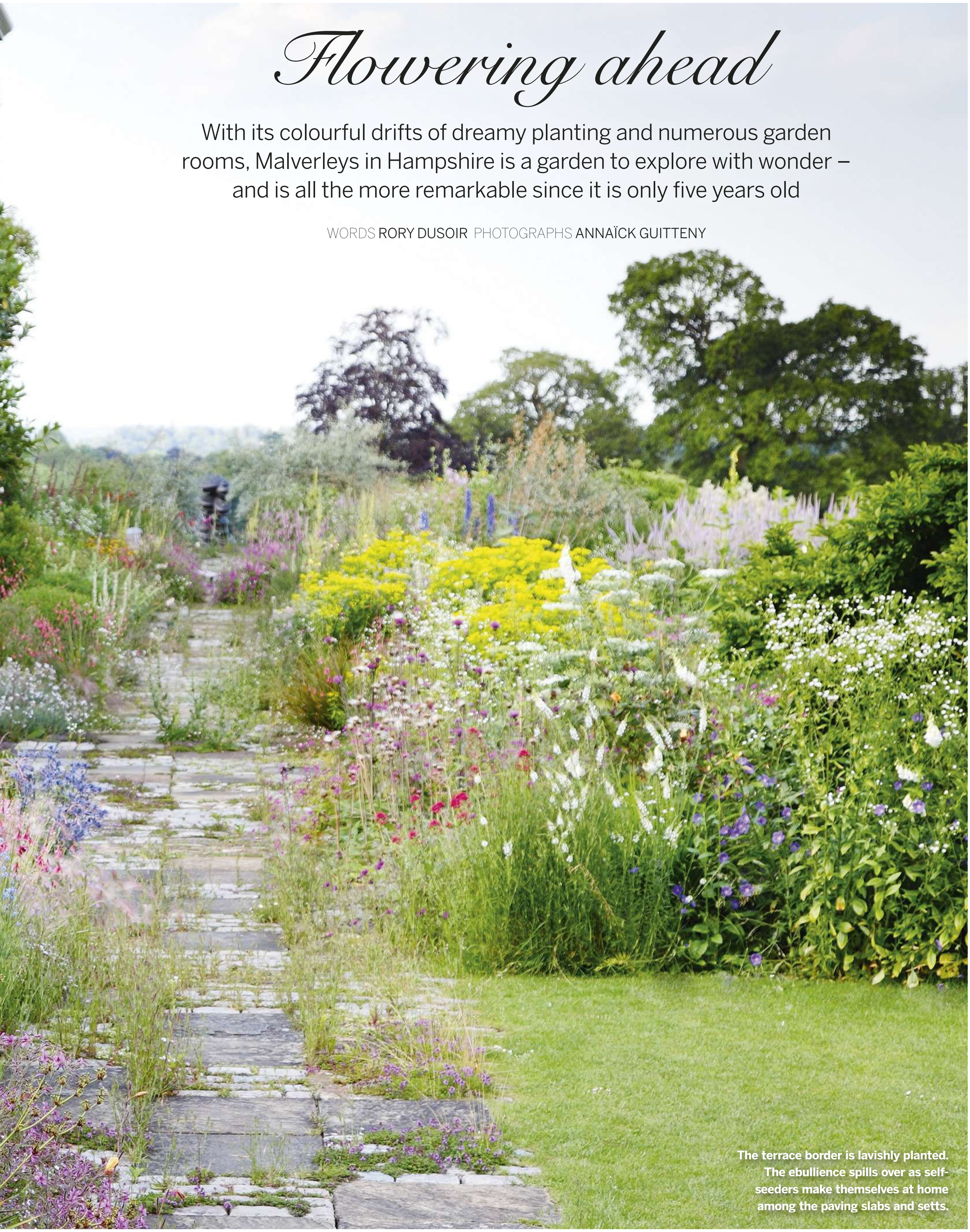
In brief

Name Malverleys.
What Recently developed garden of many rooms, planted in the style of William Robinson.
Where Hampshire.
Size Constantly expanding, currently about ten acres.
Soil Retentive clay.
Climate Fairly cold winters, mild summers and rather wet.
Hardiness rating USDA 8.

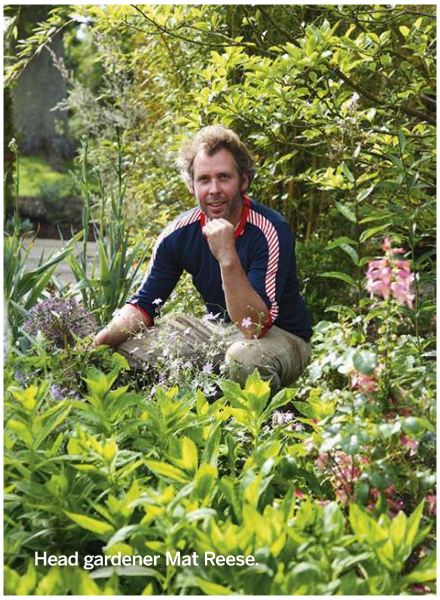
Flowering ahead

With its colourful drifts of dreamy planting and numerous garden rooms, Malverleys in Hampshire is a garden to explore with wonder – and is all the more remarkable since it is only five years old

WORDS **RORY DUSOIR** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANNAÏCK GUITTENY**

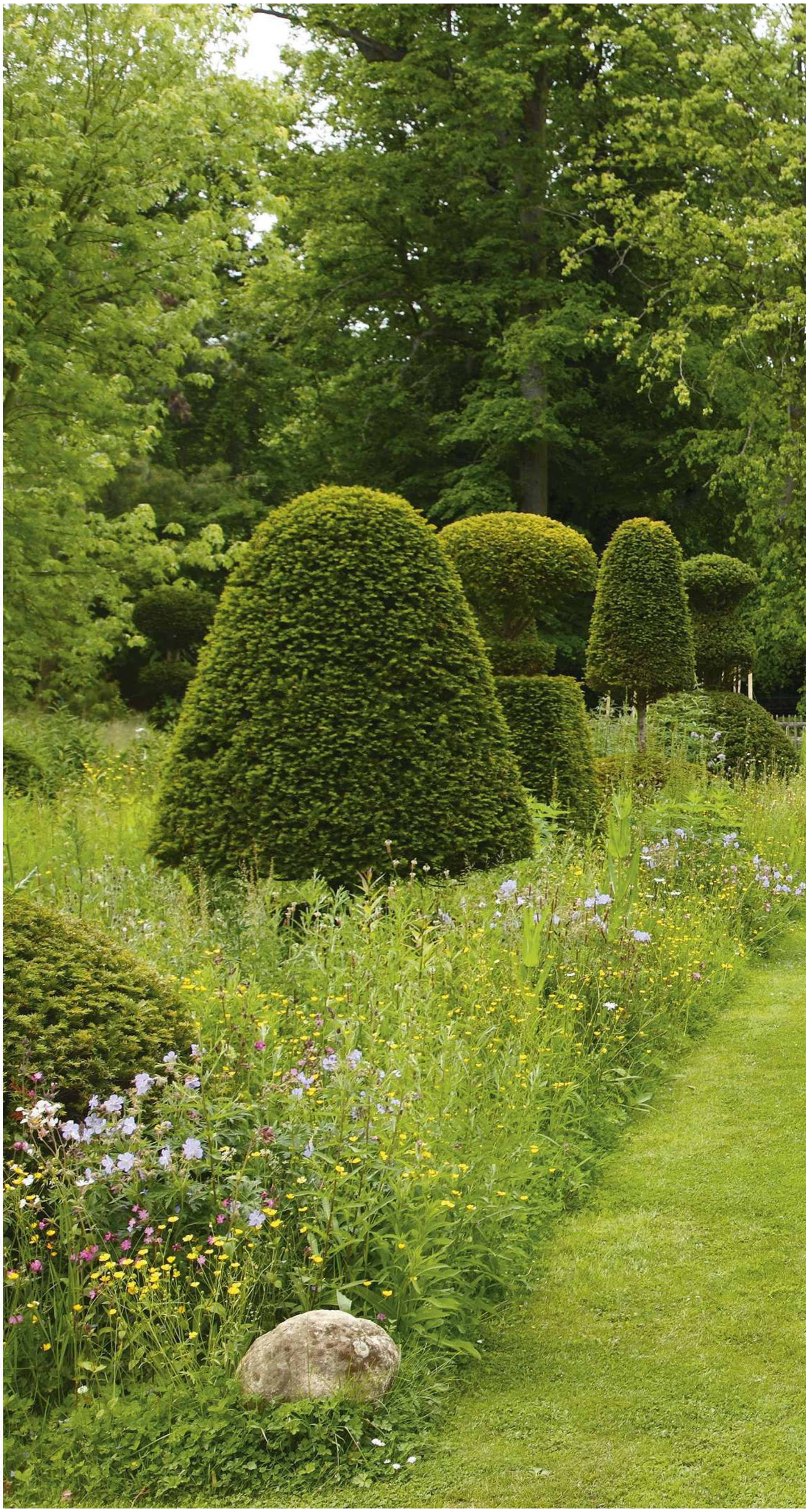


The terrace border is lavishly planted. The ebullience spills over as self-seeders make themselves at home among the paving slabs and setts.



Head gardener Mat Reese.

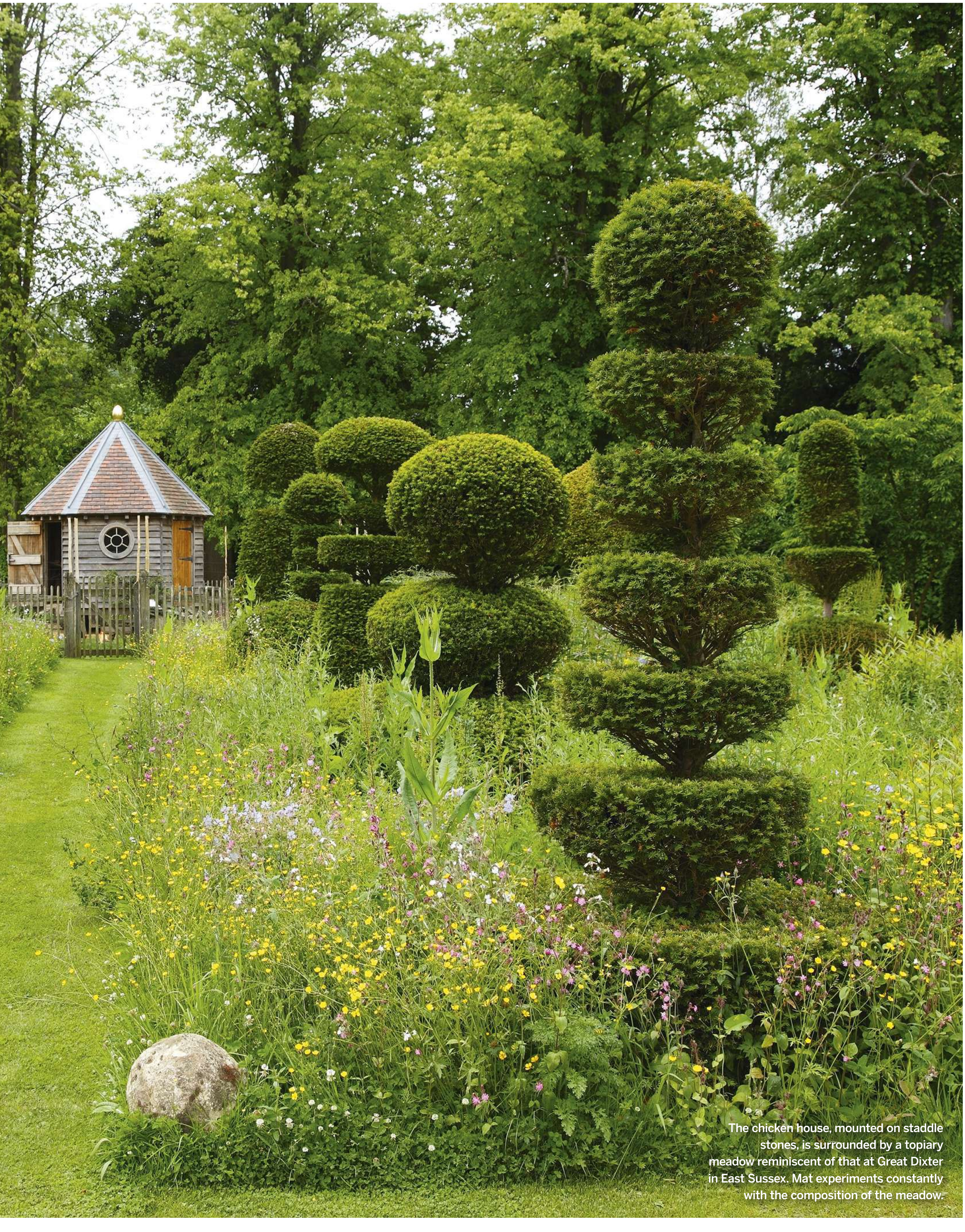
"I was keen to take more responsibility and luckily with each success in implementing the owners' vision there followed more challenges"



Malverleys, a 19th-century manor set on a hill rolling southwest down towards Newbury, is lost in a curious tangle of county borders and combes within a triangle described by Hungerford, Newbury and Andover. You need good directions to find it as mobile phones don't tend to work within three miles. The current owners moved in five years ago and promptly appointed Mat Reese (formerly of Ness Botanic Gardens, Kew and Great Dixter) as their head gardener. There was an established garden and although Mat's remit from the beginning was to develop it, both he and his employers would have been surprised at the speed and extent of the changes if they had known what the next five years would bring.

On several visits there I have found Mat up to his shins in mud directing a telehandler, unburdening an articulated truck of mature trees from Italy, or distributing bespoke pieces of York stone. There have been trips to collect an eclectic range of statuary, heavy plant breakdown

To continue turn to page 40 ▷



The chicken house, mounted on staddle stones, is surrounded by a topiary meadow reminiscent of that at Great Dixter in East Sussex. Mat experiments constantly with the composition of the meadow.

4 combinations

Wedding ring border

This border, so-called because Mat once lost his wedding ring here, mixes purples, blues and pinks. ***Cynoglossum amabile* (1)** is grown as an annual or biennial, and although known as the Chinese forget-me-not for its colour and family ties, it is summer flowering and 1m tall. ***Dierama* 'Puck' (2)** is one of the more stocky dieramas, but graceful nonetheless, and the best grower of its tribe, according to Mat. The vivid, dark colour of ***Salvia nemorosa* 'Carradonna' (3)** is enhanced by the calyces surrounding the petals and is the tallest salvia of its type with a long flowering season. ***Hordeum jubatum* 'Early Pink' (4)** is an annual, prolifically self-sowing grass. Its progeny has to be culled every year, but this is no great hardship because the roots are insubstantial.

House border

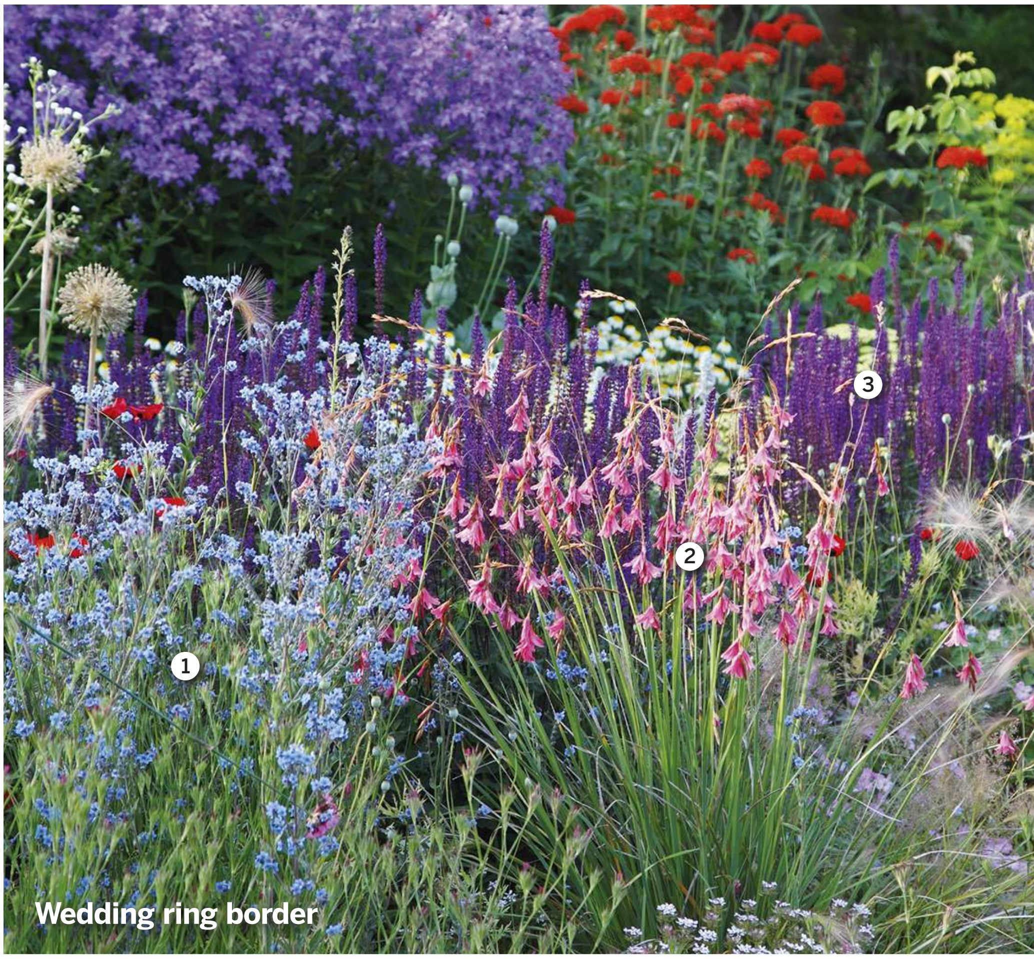
This predominantly green border near the house is dominated by ***Euphorbia cornigera* (1)** and its self-sown progeny. ***Verbascum lychnitis* (2)**, the self-seeding male fern ***Dryopteris filix-mas* (3)** and ***Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Fascination' (4)** lend their steeple shapes to this otherwise largely dome-shaped collection of plants. Other self-seeders here include the white ***Lychnis coronaria* 'Alba' (5)** and ***Geranium psilostemon* (6)**. Behind sits ***Lupinus arboreus* 'Barton-on-Sea' (7)**, which is a blue-white form of the shrubby, lax-growing tree lupin. The skill in this style of gardening is in distinguishing seedlings at an early stage and knowing when to give them their head.

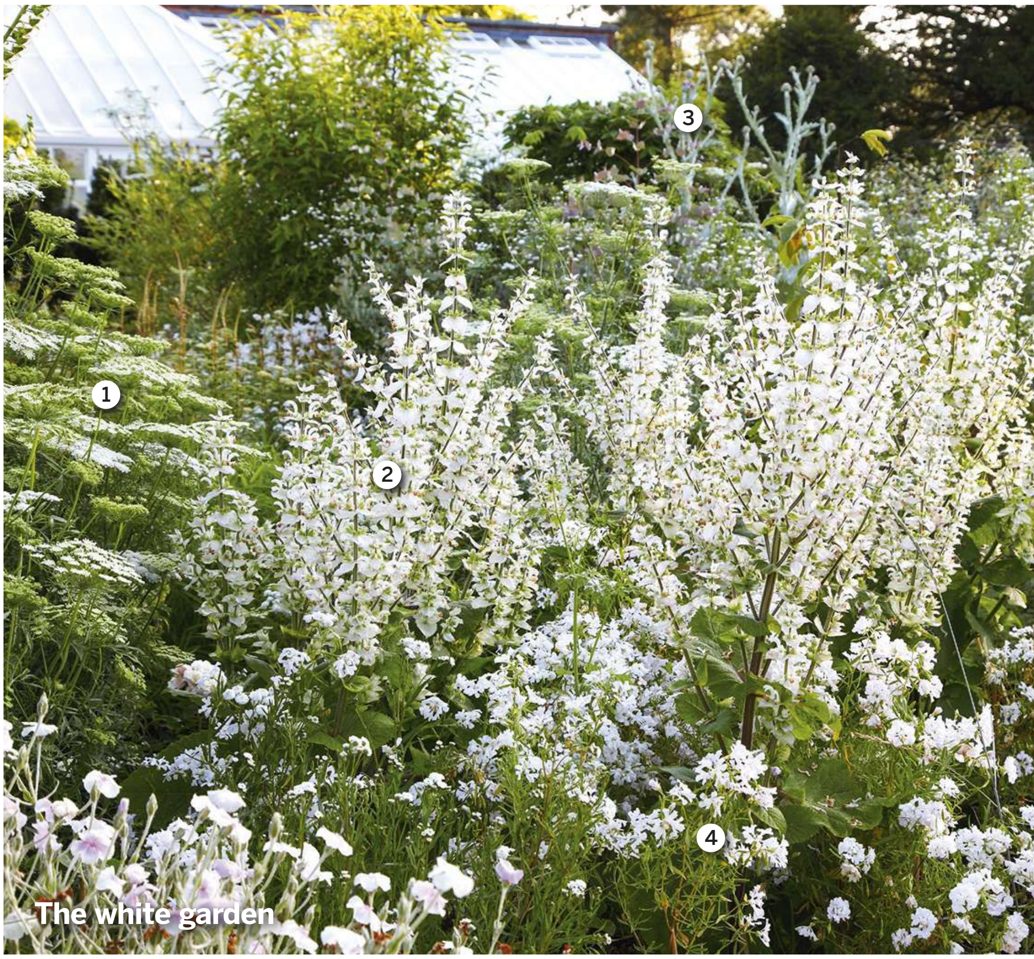
The white garden

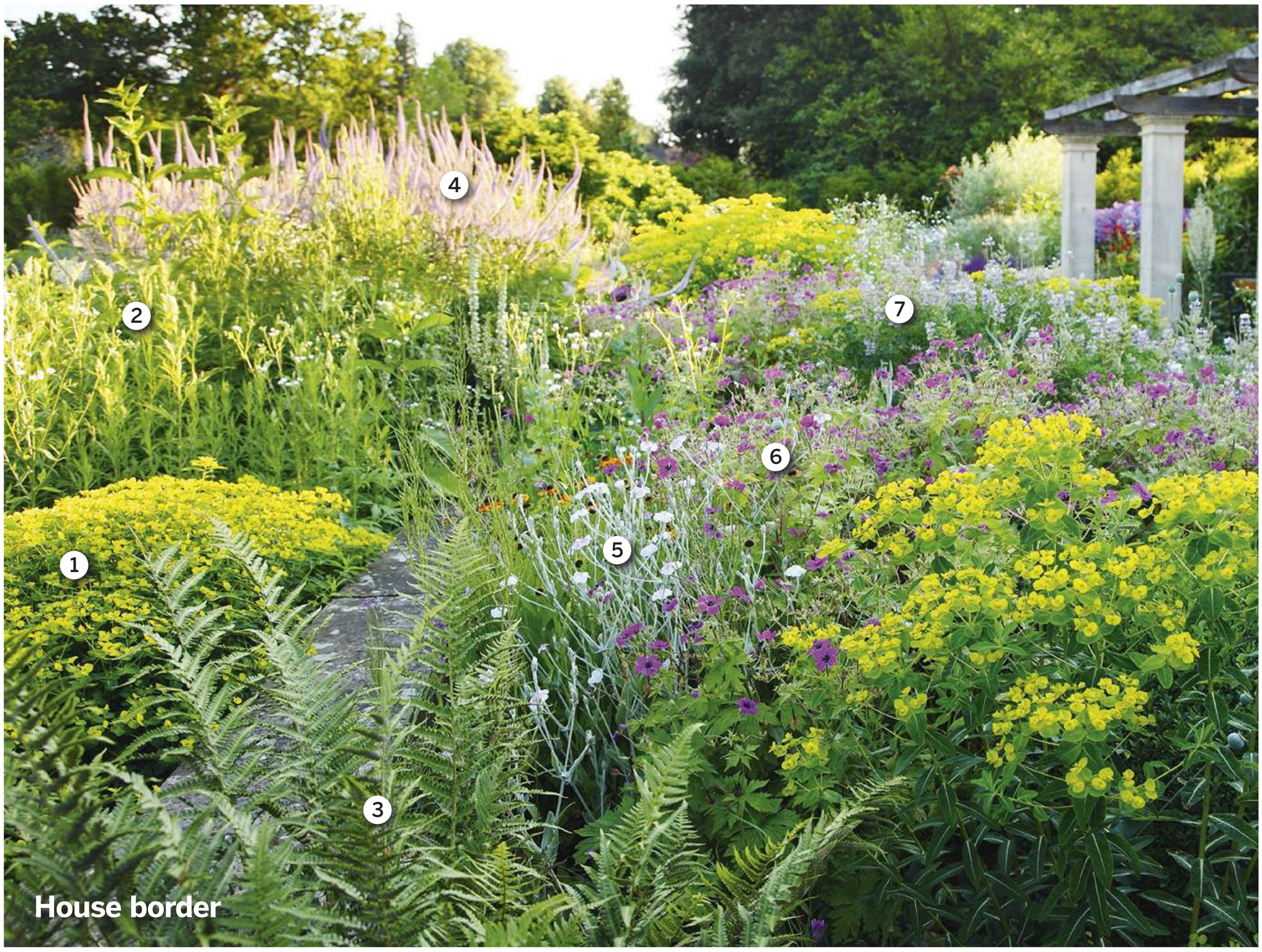
In the absence of colour, plant form assumes an ever greater importance. The frothy, flat heads of ***Ammi majus* (1)** contrast with the spires of the biennial ***Salvia sclarea* 'Vatican White' (2)** and, in the background, the giant silver thistle ***Onopordum acanthium* (3)**, which both hold sway in June and July. Filling in the gaps in the foreground is the long-flowering ***Clarkia pulchella* 'Snowflake' (4)**, while in the background is ***Erigeron annuus* (5)**, whose seedlings must be thinned out, especially as the season progresses. It flowers constantly from June to November, but towards the end of the year starts to assume almost shrub-like proportions.

The hot garden

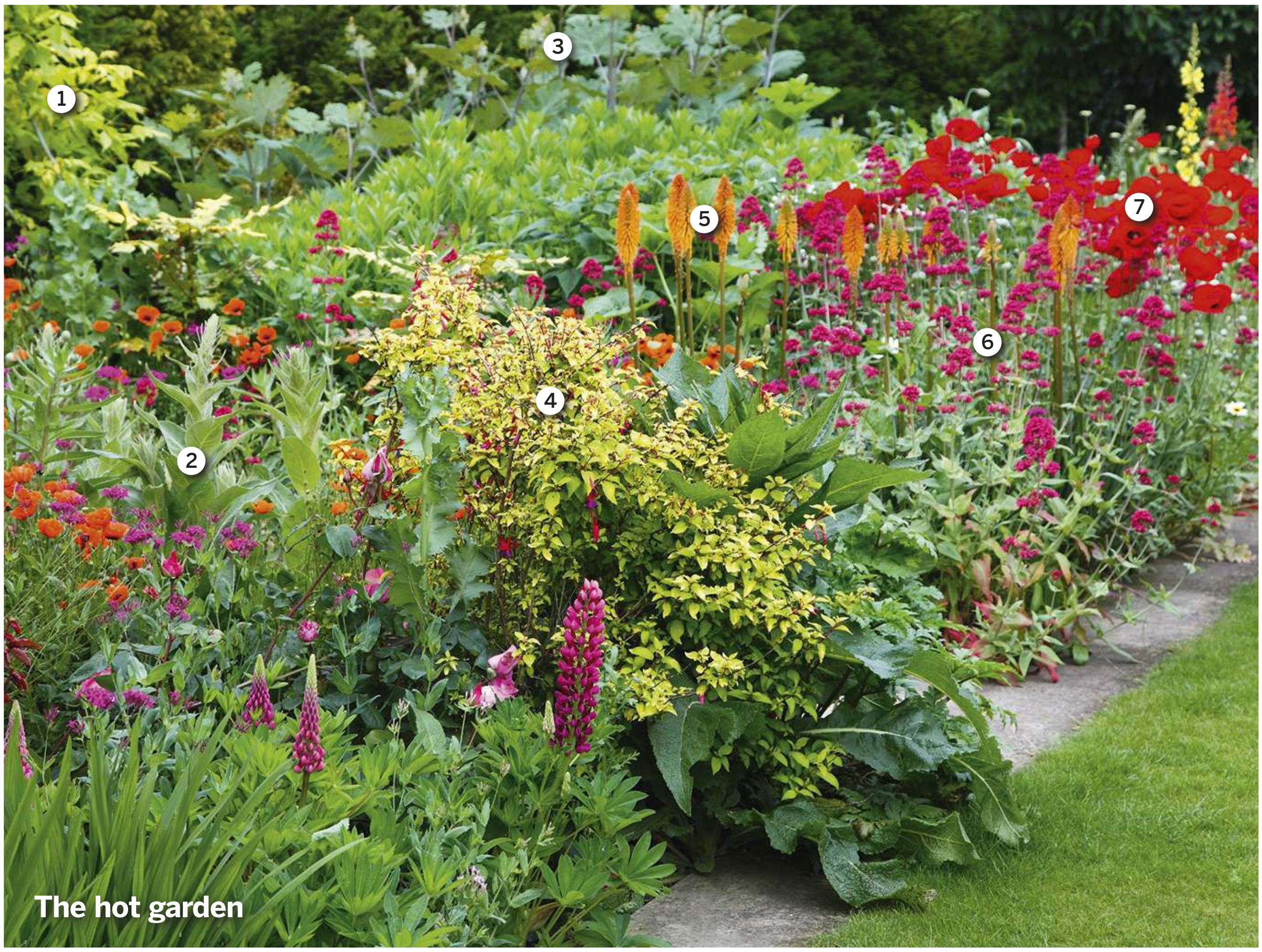
The importance of foliage in bold colour schemes, such as this, cannot be overstated – plenty of green and silver help us to digest all the strong colour. ***Acer negundo* 'Kelly's Gold' (1)** and ***Verbascum gnaphalodes* (2)**, with its silvery leaves and soft yellow flowers, help to cool things down a bit, while the pewter of the plume poppy ***Macleaya cordata* (3)** and the golden leaves of ***Fuchsia* 'Genii' (4)** leaven the hot colours of ***Kniphofia* 'Fiery Fred' (5)**, ***Centranthus ruber* (6)** and the tall, intensely scarlet ***Papaver glaucum* (7)**, the tulip poppy, which set the tone for this border with its vibrant clash of hot colours.







House border



The hot garden

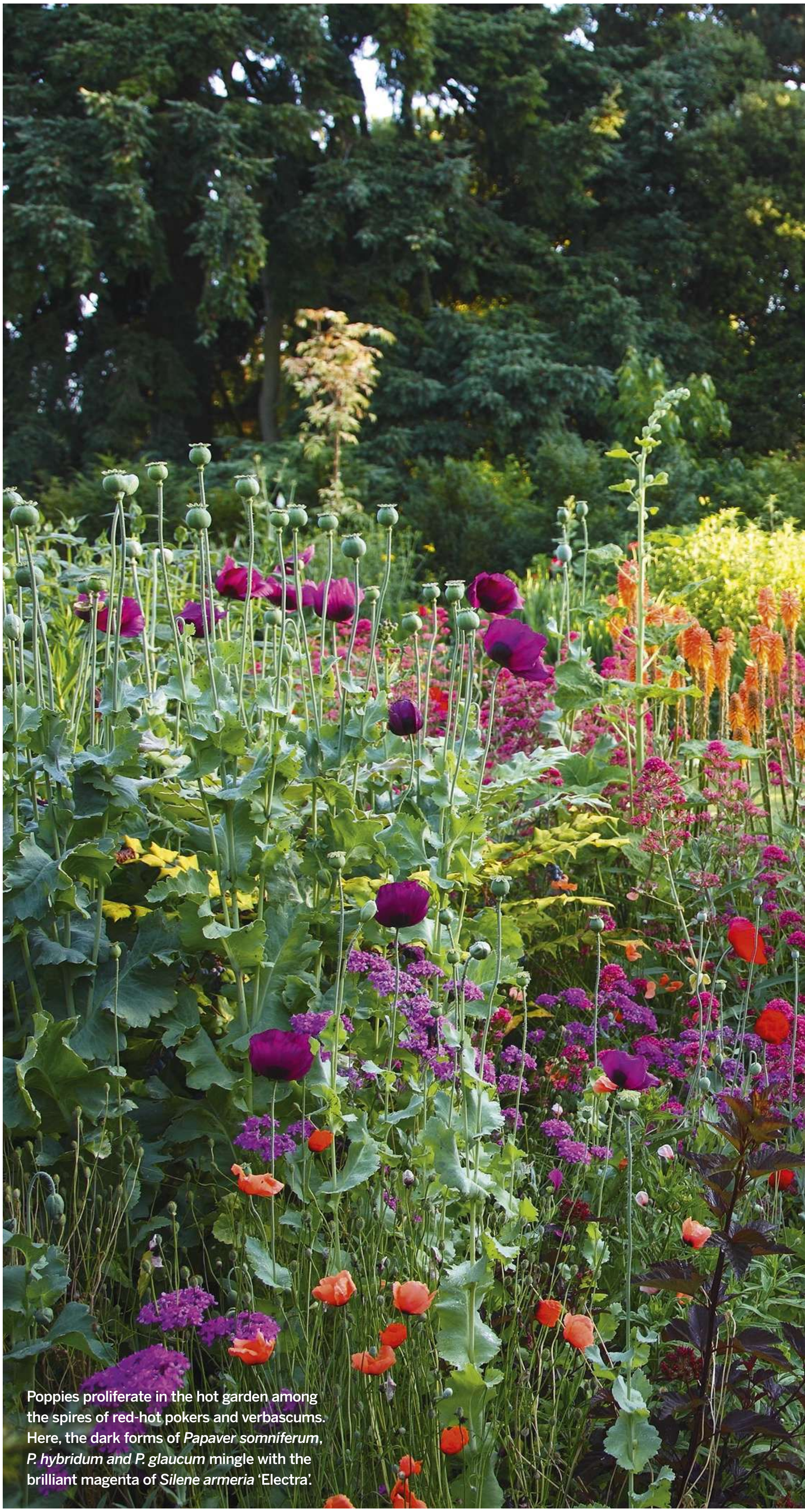
> *"The great thing about gardening in separate rooms is that you can create totally different effects in each and cater for different tastes"*

▷ dramas, endless miles driven to source masonry, and many visits to other gardens for inspiration. Developments include a breathtaking new terrace border near the house, a woodland walk, hot and cool gardens, an exotic garden and a stunning new water feature (in an as yet unnamed and not quite finished garden room). The garden is productive too, with a large kitchen garden surrounding impressive, ornate fruit cages, and a large chicken house surrounded by meadow grass and topiary.

I ask Mat how the garden unfolded. Was the remit so broad, the owner's ambition so extensive from the beginning? "Things just developed – I was keen to take more responsibility and luckily with each success in implementing the owners' vision there followed more challenges. Importantly, we visited gardens together and discussed them so that I could understand my employers' taste in plants and how to use them."

A key moment was a visit to Great Dixter, where Mat had worked under Christopher Lloyd and Fergus Garrett as assistant head gardener. The Dixter influence at Malverleys is quite plain to see – a visit there in June or July will bowl you over with the abundance and unfurling multiplicity of the planting, but there are important points of difference. Christopher Lloyd was famously averse to colour-themed gardens and yet at Malverleys there are hot, cool and white gardens, at the behest of the owners. "The great thing about gardening in separate rooms is that you can create totally different effects in each and cater for different seasons and tastes," says Mat.

But what both gardens have in common, and what they owe to the 'father of the English flower garden', William Robinson (1838-1935), far outweighs their differences in approach to colour. Both gardens are worked intensively by a highly skilled team in order to appear as effortless as possible. There is a great degree of succession planting, including a ▷



Poppies proliferate in the hot garden among the spires of red-hot pokers and verbascums. Here, the dark forms of *Papaver somniferum*, *P. hybridum and P. glaucum* mingle with the brilliant magenta of *Silene armeria* 'Electra'.

Mat Reese's top tips

- **Dividing a garden into separate rooms** allows you to work on a more intimate scale and permits contrasting colour themes, styles and seasons within one site. Colour combinations are subject to so many subtle factors – including light quality and the tone and saturation of the colours involved – that you always need to experiment and learn from your mistakes.
- **Spend time getting to know the site** before making any irreversible decisions about your treatment of a space.
- **A house should be linked to its garden** and the garden to the landscape beyond. If your house is in the country, the Robinsonian style of planting can provide great echoes of wild-plant communities.
- **Consider contrast** and when devising plant combinations contrast form as well as colour. It is also worth considering how plants move and set off the more mobile against the static.
- **The new chicken house was mounted** on staddle stones to stop vermin from nesting beneath it.
- **Some of the best planting effects** are quite fleeting and require assiduous editing to maintain. For example, the welcome haze of bronze fennel seedlings in spring will soon become overbearing if not culled as summer progresses.
- **Exercise restraint with water features.** Less is more – too much noise and movement can be agitating, rather than restful.
- **Don't be afraid to diverge** from perfectly square shapes when laying out your garden, if the topography suggests it. Slightly irregular gardens may look odd when drawn on a plan, but you experience gardens from ground level where irregularities are less noticeable.
- **Mat much prefers the effect of reclaimed York stone paving** when it is butt-jointed rather than pointed with mortar. "Each slab is defined by the shadow around its edge, and the drainage is much better," he says.

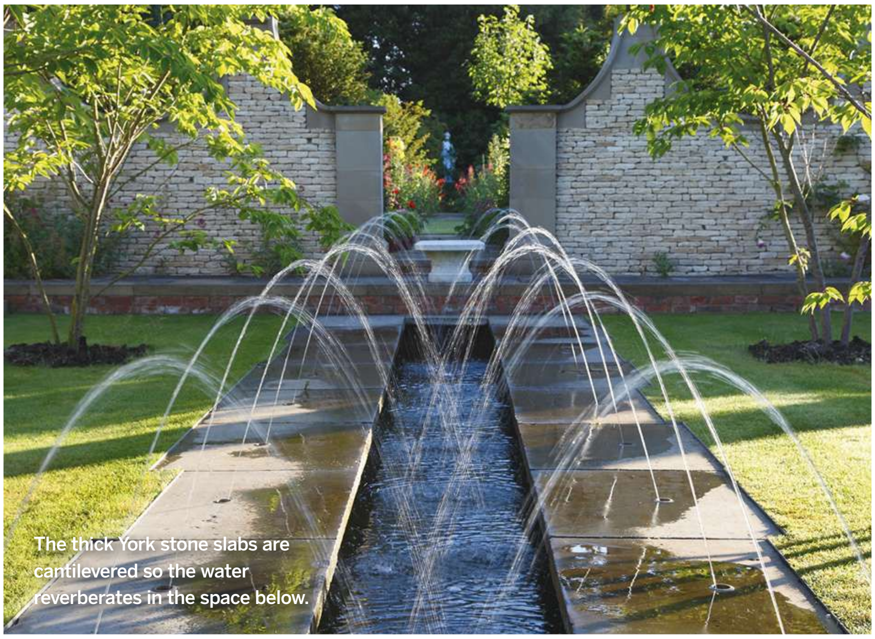
“For this style there is always a tension between structure and chaos and it’s important to get the balance just right”

▷ skilful and subtle use of bedding out to extend the seasons. Self-sowing plants are embraced and judiciously edited when necessary. The overall aim is to create something in the spirit of the tapestry of shapes and colours to be found in wild or semi-wild plant colonies such as meadows.

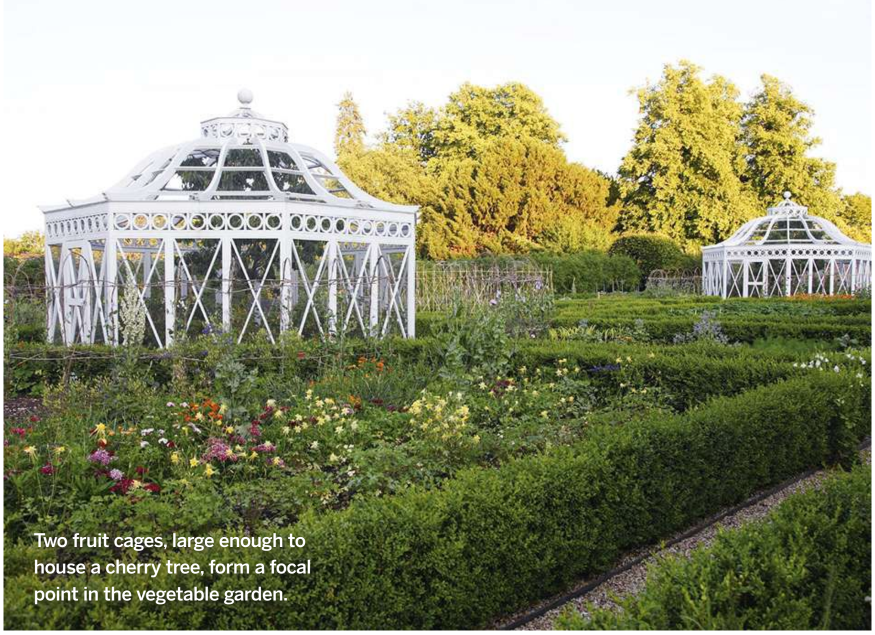
Key to the style, however, is structure and definition. When so much of the planting consists of a hazy and apparently random matrix of plants, anchor plants and clearly defined borders assume great importance. As if to illustrate this point, Mat shows off the improvement he is undertaking in the topiary meadow. “We decided to plant a hedge (*Euonymus alatus* ‘Compactus’) to define the edge where the meadow meets the path – for this style there is always a tension between structure and chaos and it’s important to get the balance just right.”

I ask if the garden has expanded organically, or according to a plan. “A bit of both,” Mat replies. “We did create a master plan, and the process was important because it allowed us to think about the site and what we wanted from it. It’s so important to get to know the terrain before you do anything irreversible. However, as the garden has expanded we haven’t always stuck rigidly to the original scheme.”

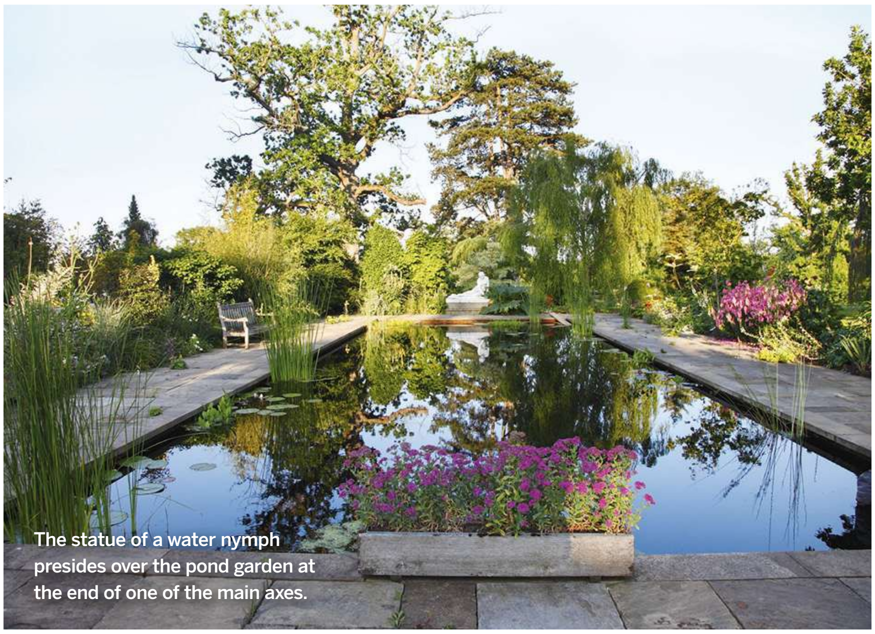
Mat has responded to the owners’ vision by planting dozens of semi-mature trees and shrubs, and many yards of yew hedging, to create a garden that appears astonishingly mature after just five years. “We have planted big to create our framework, but planting only large trees does restrict your choice,” says Mat. He gestures to a recently planted sapling of the unusual *Carpinus fangiana*. “As the garden matures further an increasingly distinguished collection of plants should come to the fore.” Exciting years lie ahead for this garden; let’s hope there are more opportunities to share its development with a wider public. □



The thick York stone slabs are cantilevered so the water reverberates in the space below.



Two fruit cages, large enough to house a cherry tree, form a focal point in the vegetable garden.



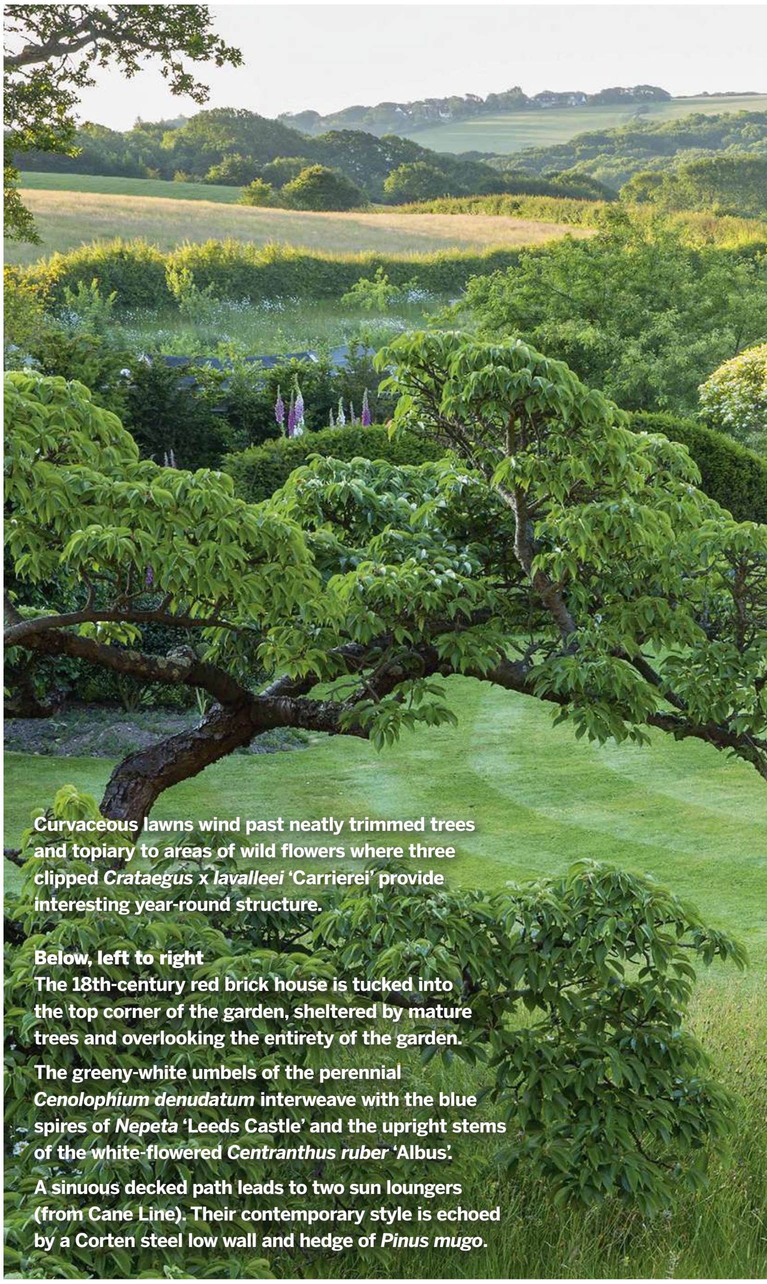
The statue of a water nymph presides over the pond garden at the end of one of the main axes.

Catmint spills over on to reclaimed bricks, used without pointing, to give a relaxed feel to this newly created garden room.

Falling for a view

Chris and Robin Hutt were drawn to their East Sussex house by its stunning views over the Sussex Weald, but the garden's steeply sloping site brought a frustrating set of problems

WORDS **STEPHANIE DONALDSON**
PHOTOGRAPHS **MARIANNE MAJERUS**



Curvaceous lawns wind past neatly trimmed trees and topiary to areas of wild flowers where three clipped *Crataegus x lavalleei* 'Carrierei' provide interesting year-round structure.

Below, left to right

The 18th-century red brick house is tucked into the top corner of the garden, sheltered by mature trees and overlooking the entirety of the garden.

The greeny-white umbels of the perennial *Cenolophium denudatum* interweave with the blue spires of *Nepeta* 'Leeds Castle' and the upright stems of the white-flowered *Centranthus ruber* 'Albus'.

A sinuous decked path leads to two sun loungers (from Cane Line). Their contemporary style is echoed by a Corten steel low wall and hedge of *Pinus mugo*.

The garden at Fairlight End is perched on a ridge close to where the undulating Sussex Weald begins its steep descent to the sea. The 18th-century house is at the highest point in the garden with views down the slope over abundant borders and velvety lawns that are punctuated by clusters of specimen trees and shrubs. Beyond and below are the wild-flower meadows and the ponds with a backdrop of the gloriously unspoilt Wealden landscape.

Eleven years ago, when owner Chris Hutt was 57, and semi-retiring from business life, he and his wife Robin moved here from Cambridge. "We had always lived in the city and never had more than a postage stamp-sized garden," says Chris. "I knew that one of the things I wanted to do with the extra time I had was to make a garden on a decent scale and to do that we had to move."

When the Hutts first saw Fairlight End, the garden was an entirely different shape and a third of the upper garden didn't exist. "It is a very odd piece of land," explains Chris. "The fall from the road to the bottom of our three acres is fifty foot from one side of the property to the other. Every single part of the ▷

Coping with a sloping garden

- **Expert advice will prevent costly mistakes**. Chris soon realised that the initial landscaping he'd done himself was unsatisfactory because he didn't understand proportions and principles. He now wishes he'd collaborated with landscape architect Ian Kitson from the start.
- **Earthworks can be costly and are messy**, but they are the only way to create generous planting areas on a steep slope, especially where the ground slopes in all directions as it does at Fairlight End.
- **Use sympathetic landscaping materials**; the Corten steel is contemporary, but its colour echoes the brickwork of the house.
- **Paths should slope gently** so they're still usable in wet or wintry conditions; steps are essential where a slope is too steep for paths.
- **Slopes tend to be windy**, so select only plants that will stand up and look good in the wind.
- **A slope or steps gives you the opportunity** to place plants differently. Some plants, such as *Stipa gigantea* and hellebores in spring, look particularly good when approached from below.

In brief

Name Fairlight End.
What Country garden on a steep slope that becomes increasingly informal as it falls away from the house.
Where Close to the coast in East Sussex.
Size Three acres.
Soil Clay over sandstone, improved by the addition of copious quantities of mushroom compost and grit.
Climate Very mild but windswept by prevailing westerly winds.
Hardiness rating USDA 8a-9b.

▷ garden slopes in various directions. In some ways it was a perverse purchase, yet I wouldn't have done it unless I saw and felt something about it as a piece of ground.

"I started very enthusiastically and energetically, and I made mistakes all over the place. If I pretended that I had the slightest idea about what I was doing I would be fibbing – I didn't have a clue." Rather than struggle on, Chris enlisted landscape designer Ian Kitson's help with a series of ongoing projects that have dramatically transformed an awkward site into a garden that flows down the hill in a series of distinct but subtly interrelated spaces. An equally important collaboration has been that between Chris and Tara Culley, a consultant on plant design who trained at the RHS and Great Dixter. "She designed the original herbaceous borders and has guided me through their evolution into plantings that are now primarily about shape and movement rather than colour. She has been in sympathy with what I have been doing every step of the way," says Chris "I couldn't have done any of it without her support." Equally important is William Hurton, another Dixter-trained gardener, who works alongside Chris for two days a week.

The establishment of the meadows was given a helping hand early on with some strewing hay from Great Dixter. Those areas are now botanically richer than anywhere else, although the introduced species are beginning to spread. "One of the nicest things I do all year," says Chris, "is sit in the meadow one lovely summer evening and collect seed into jars and envelopes to sow newly landscaped ▷

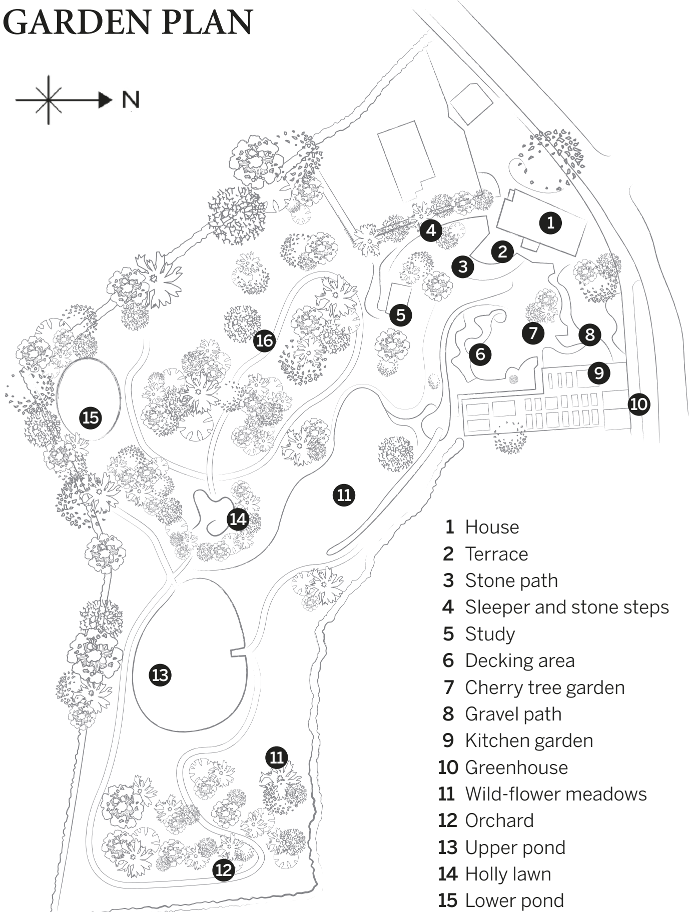
An ancient cherry tree is the centrepiece of the upper garden. On the other side of the path sculptural Corten steel shapes become plant supports when clothed in climbers later in the season.

Below, left to right
Foxgloves line the path in the highly productive kitchen garden; its informality belies the orderly vegetable beds concealed behind the flowers.

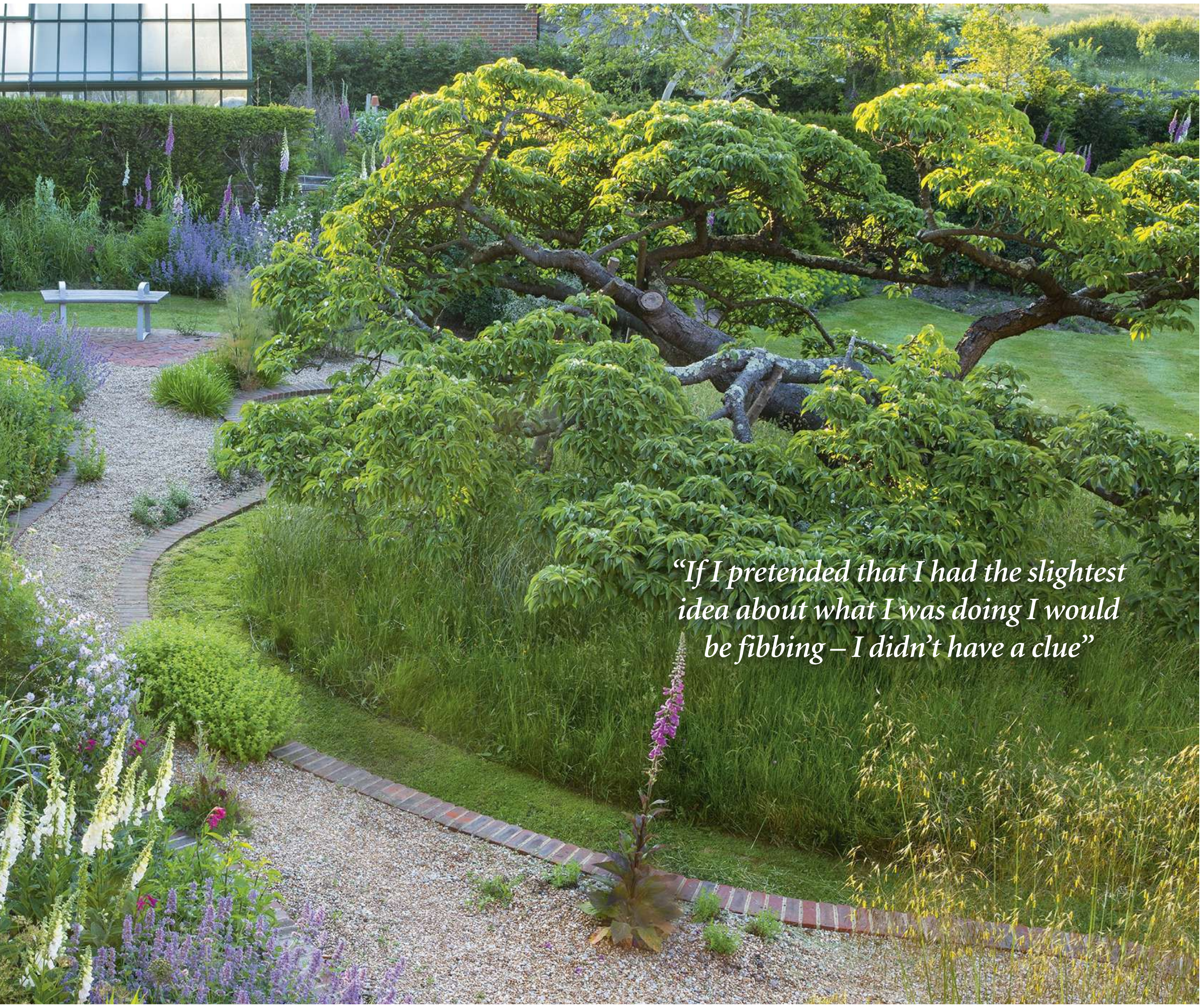
Steeply sloping sleeper-and-stone steps overhung with pyracantha form a shady path that leads from the terrace in front of the house to Chris's study.

Rich pink *Rosa* Alan Titchmarsh (= 'Ausjive') and paler *R.* Rosemoor (= 'Austough') grow either side of a stone path against a backdrop of *Digitalis purpurea* and *Stipa gigantea* 'Gold Fontaene'.

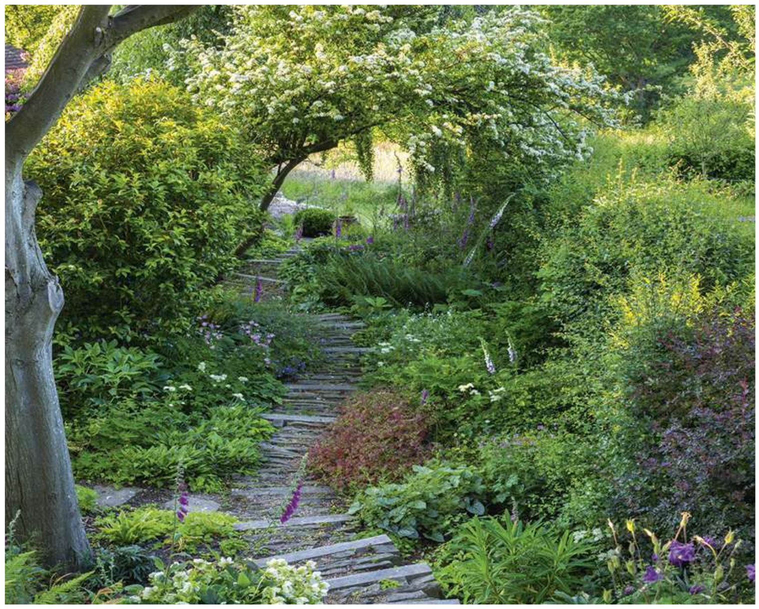
GARDEN PLAN



1 House
2 Terrace
3 Stone path
4 Sleeper and stone steps
5 Study
6 Decking area
7 Cherry tree garden
8 Gravel path
9 Kitchen garden
10 Greenhouse
11 Wild-flower meadows
12 Orchard
13 Upper pond
14 Holly lawn
15 Lower pond
16 Hazel walk



"If I pretended that I had the slightest idea about what I was doing I would be fibbing – I didn't have a clue"



▷ areas, or to give to other gardeners. The insect activity and the detailed variation of the flowers and the grasses is astonishing."

As lovely as the meadows are, Chris is planning some changes. "I'm particularly pleased where we've introduced the white rugosa rose in the upper meadow. The wild flowers and grasses look wonderful for ten to 12 weeks a year, but those roses add another layer with flowers in summer and hips in autumn – I'm going to gradually plant more wild roses in the meadow."

In the early days the garden was divided into three areas – kitchen, decorative and wild, but Chris has become progressively dissatisfied with that division and he and Ian have been blurring boundaries, starting with softening the edges between the decorative garden and the wild garden. At the same time Chris has lowered the yew hedges around the kitchen garden. "I want to be part of the bigger garden and the landscape when I work there on a summer evening," he says. "We've also begun to grow food outside the kitchen garden, with rhubarb, fruit bushes and fruit trees advancing into the decorative garden – I see it as being a fourth subdivision of space.

"After those early years of making mistakes, I now have an idea of the thrust and direction of this garden. It is all about addressing the beautiful countryside beyond and allowing it to come into the garden and have the garden inter-react with the fabulous borrowed views. Each time we make it a little bit wilder, a little bit shaggier, a little bit looser and a little bit more unbuttoned I'm comfortable with the result – it's where I want to go." □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Fairlight End, Pett Road, Pett, Hastings, East Sussex TN35 4HB.
Tel 07774 863750. **Email** chrishutt@btopenworld.com
Open 25-26 June 2016, 11am-5pm, for NGS, and for groups of ten or more by prior arrangement from May to September. Guests staying at the Hutts's holiday cottage, Infield, may also access the garden.

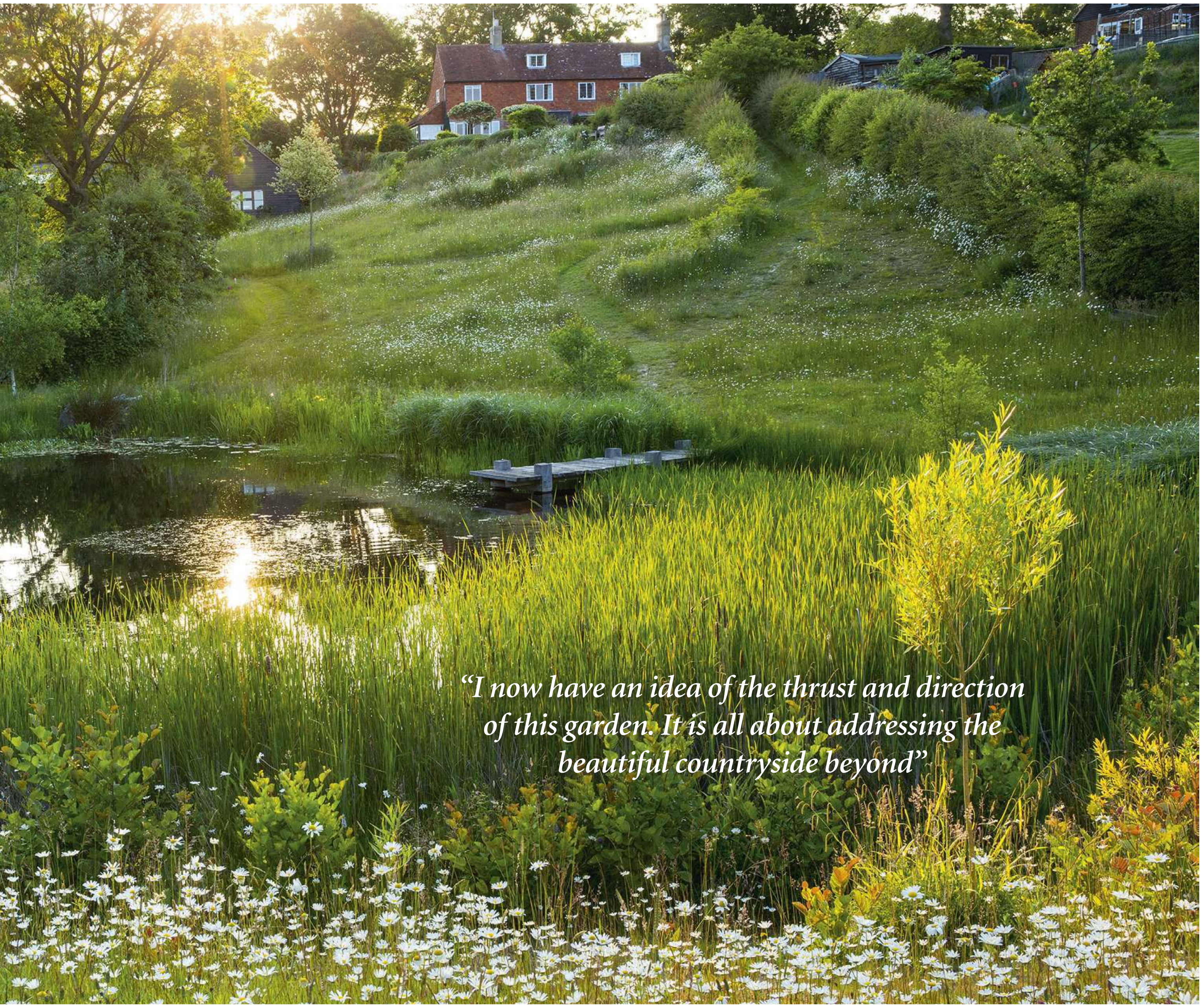
Ian Kitson Tel 020 7723 0043, iankitson.com
Tara Culley Tel 07855 494891, taraculley@icloud.com

When the upper pond was first dug, Chris and Tara planted its margins with 27 different native British plants – 900 plants in a single weekend – the only planting they've ever done in this area.

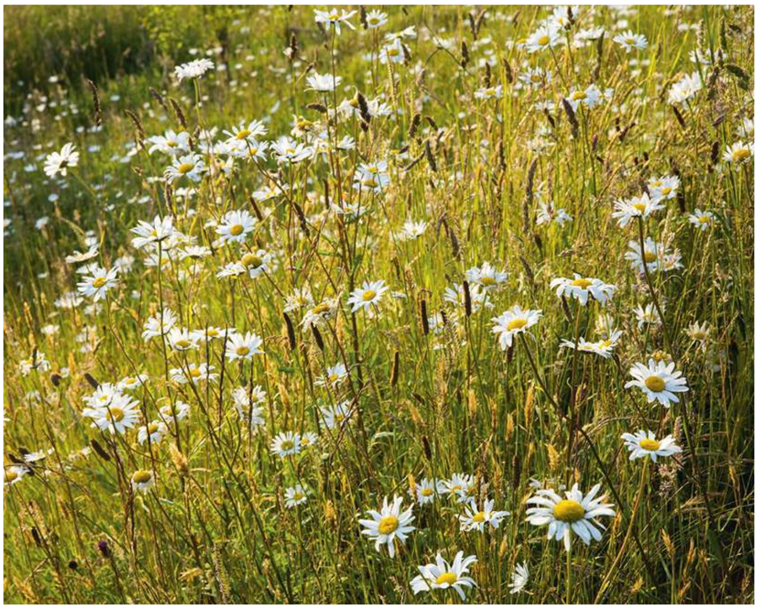
Below, left to right
Mown paths allow access to the wild-flower meadows and ponds and orchard beyond – the clearly defined routes prevent the meadows being trampled.
Stripping the topsoil from part of the meadow and introducing yellow rattle has created the perfect poor, dry conditions that allow ox-eye daisies to thrive.
This area, at the bottom of the slope, is lusher and damper so wild flowers are slower to establish. The 6m ladder, leaning against an alder tree, was rescued from a Kentish cherry orchard.

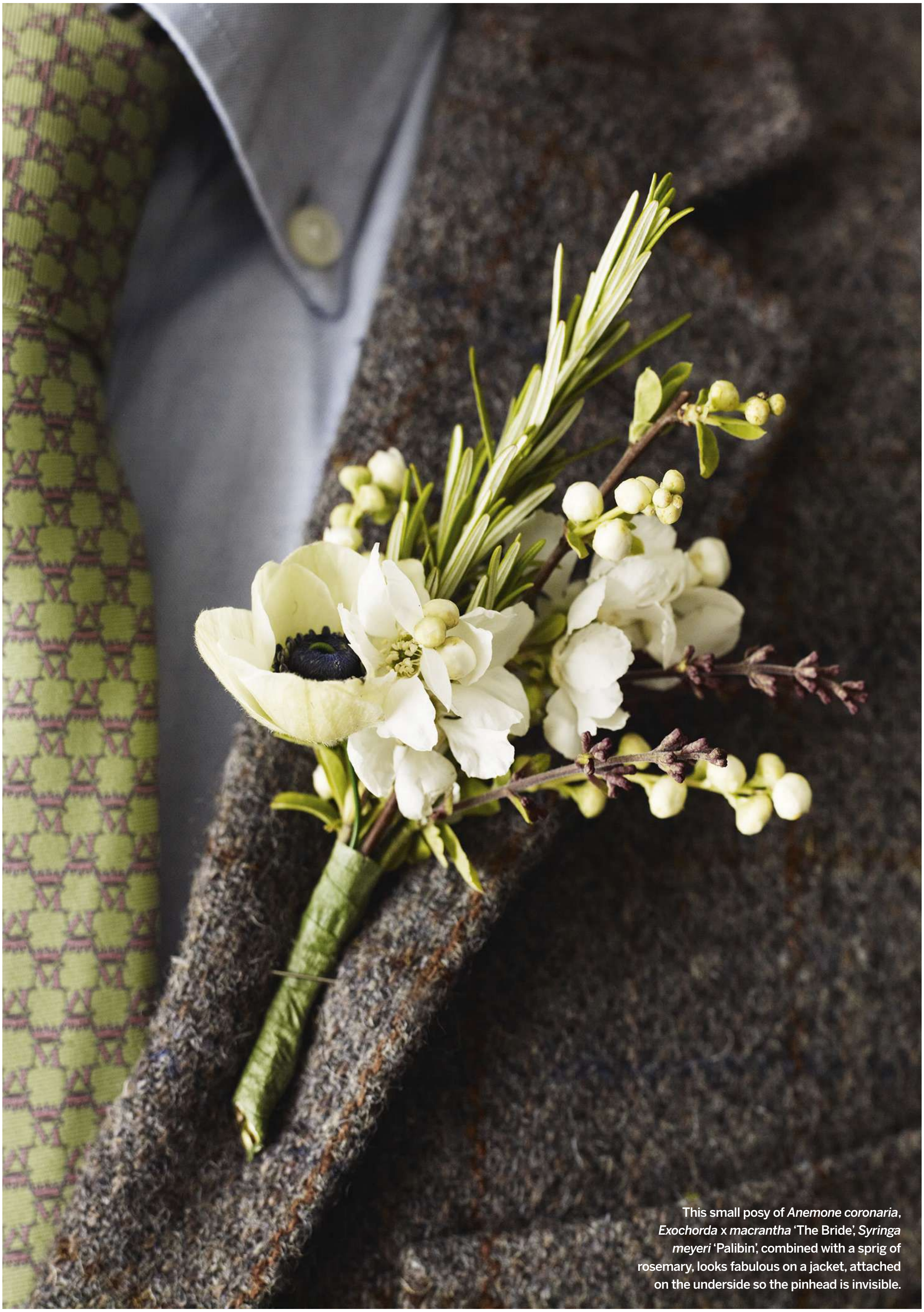
Meadow making at Fairlight End

- **Chris attended a one-day Meadow Course** with Pam Lewis at Sticky Wicket (stickywicketgarden.com) in Dorset, where he bought a single packet of her yellow rattle seed. That single sowing has established a thriving population.
- **Chris considers yellow rattle** (*Rhinanthus minor*), used to weaken grasses in one area of meadow, as a 'miracle plant' because wherever it establishes, wild flowers spread and multiply.
- **In another area Chris stripped the topsoil,** which is more invasive but helps meadows establish more quickly. This area was sown with local Weald Native Origin Seed from the High Weald Landscape Trust (highwealdlandscapetrust.org). In the first year there was a fair amount of bare soil, less in year two, and now ox-eye daisies carpet the upper slopes of the meadow, thriving in the free-draining conditions.
- **As Friends of Great Dixter,** Chris and Robin were able to obtain strewing hay from Dixter's long-established meadows to further increase plant diversity. This includes a healthy population of orchids.



"I now have an idea of the thrust and direction of this garden. It is all about addressing the beautiful countryside beyond"

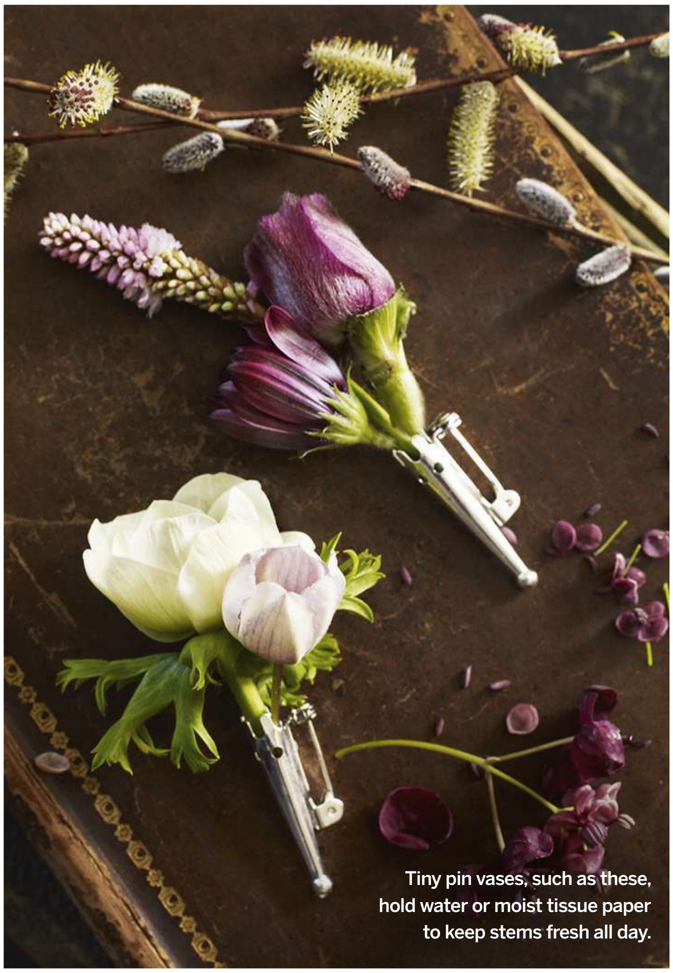




This small posy of *Anemone coronaria*, *Exochorda* x *macrantha* 'The Bride', *Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin', combined with a sprig of rosemary, looks fabulous on a jacket, attached on the underside so the pinhead is invisible.

Oscar Wilde is said to have worn a buttonhole of fresh flowers every day at the height of his fame.

ROGER VIOLLET COLLECTION / GETTY IMAGES



Tiny pin vases, such as these, hold water or moist tissue paper to keep stems fresh all day.

Bring back the buttonhole

When and why did wearing a buttonhole fall out of fashion? We think it's time to bring them back – after all it's what lapels were made for

WORDS AND STYLING CHARLIE RYRIE PHOTOGRAPHS ANDREW MONTGOMERY

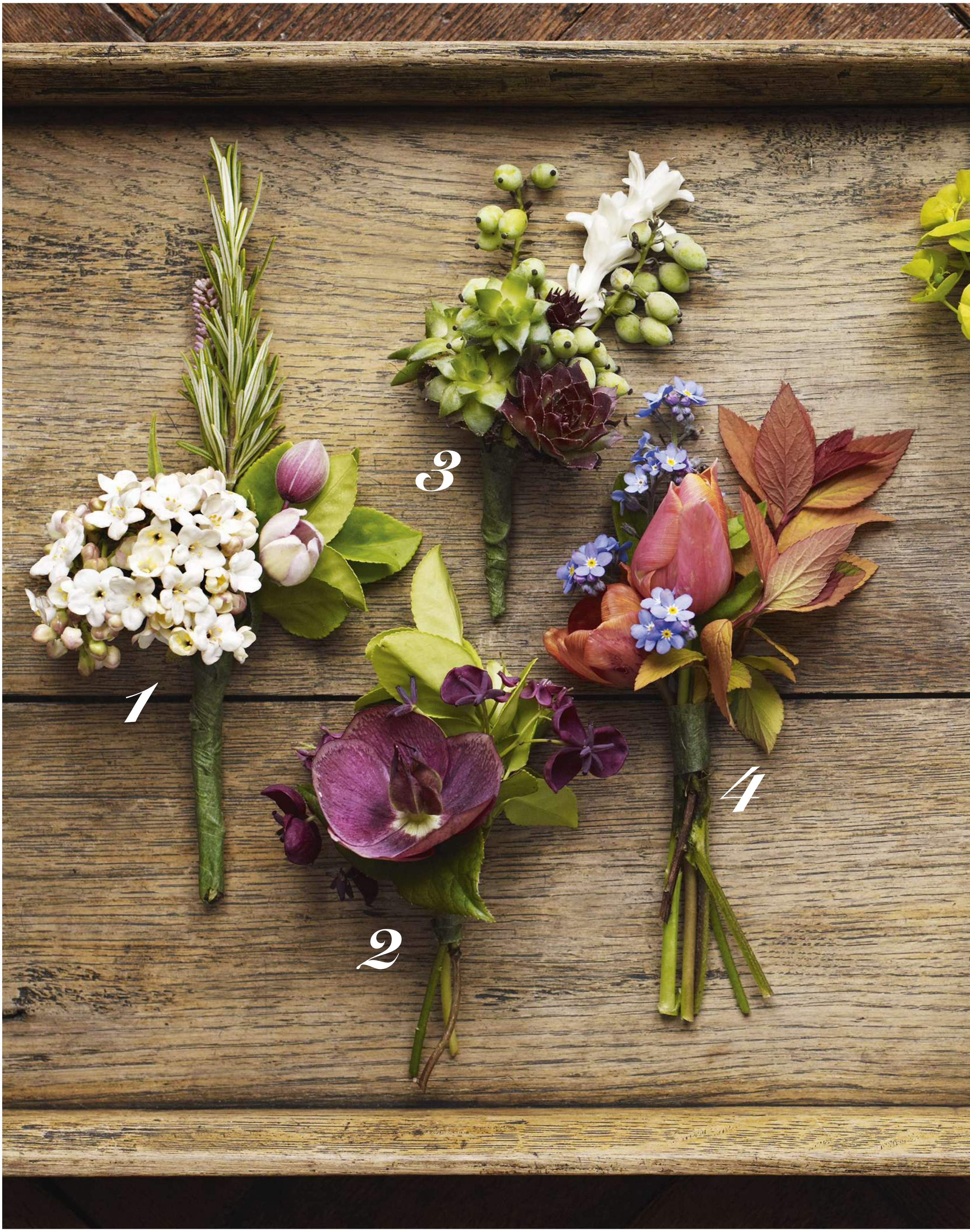
Chic and classic, frivolous or fantastic, it would be a joy to see buttonholes once again worn as daily accessories rather than just for weddings and occasional high days. You can simply pick a bloom from your garden – or vase, or hedgerow – or craft something extraordinary to show your personal style.

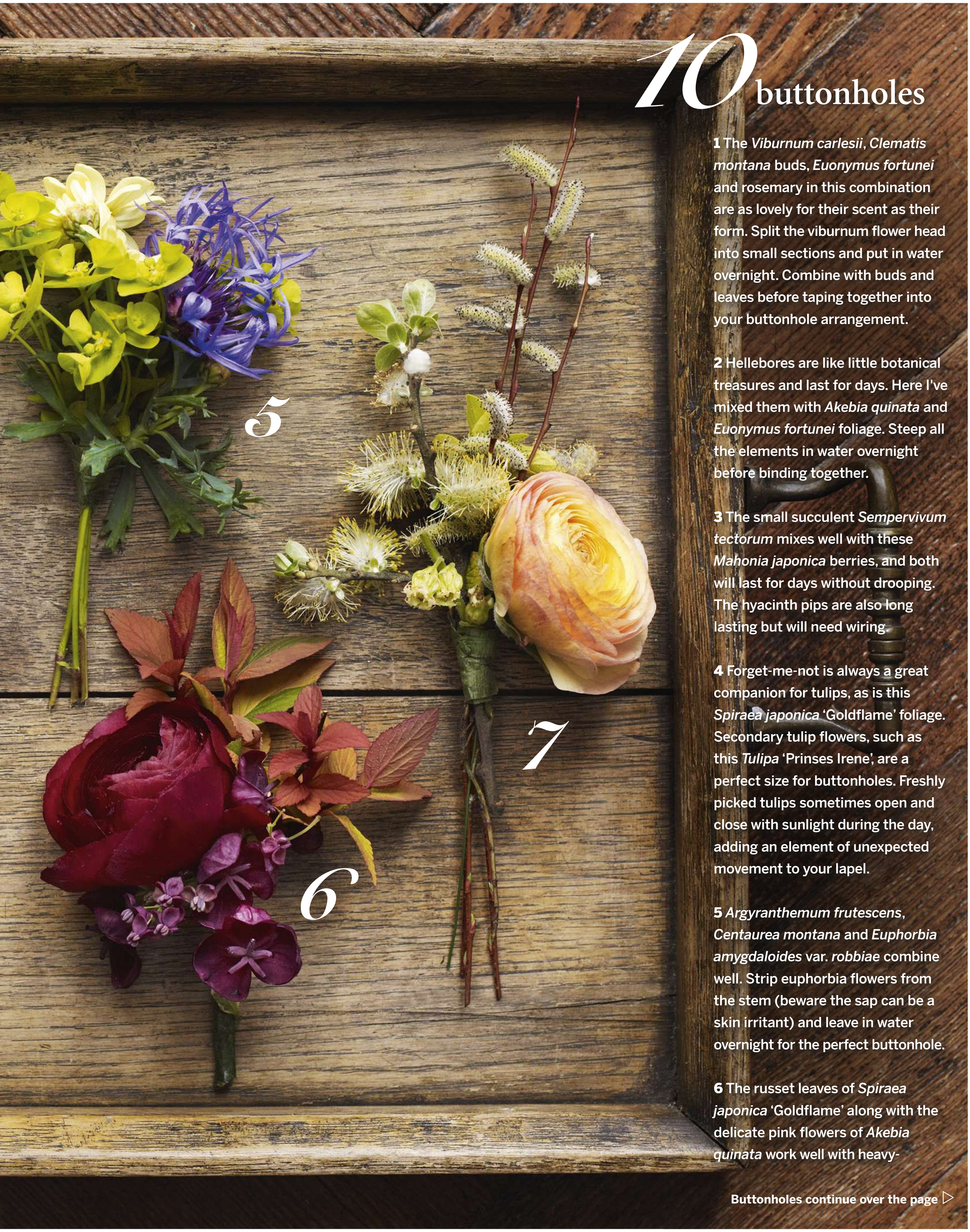
Men used to wear flowers far more commonly. In the late 18th century fashionable chaps in England – known as macaronis because of the pasta they ate on their European Grand Tours – wore entire bouquets in miniature. Less flashy gentlemen often wore sprays of flowers as the frock coat emerged as general wear, its turned-down collar forming a lapel with an exposed buttonhole, and as bright costumes became more sober, the buttonhole flower became fashionable as a splash of colour on a plain jacket. By the late 19th century a buttonhole was the mark of a careful dresser, worn by politicians and professionals as well as dandies. After the First World War, poppies emerged as a symbol of remembrance, and are still worn around Remembrance Day, but otherwise floral adornment was rarely seen in the early 20th century. The fortunes of buttonholes revived a little in the 1950s, when film stars, such as Cary Grant, sported one. More recently, Agatha Christie's dapper detective Hercule Poirot, as portrayed by David Suchet on TV, was frequently seen with a flower on his lapel, often placed in a miniature vase for added elegance.

Even today, a well-made jacket often has a small loop on the underside of the lapel beneath the buttonhole to secure the stem, ideal for flowers, such as carnations or roses, with a large calyx, but even with jackets without a loop it's easy to stitch one, and equally fine to wear buttonhole flowers pinned flat on the outside of the lapel.

Most flowers can be made into tiny lapel posies – lily of the valley, scented pinks, cornflowers and nigella are all favourites of mine – and evergreen foliage, grasses and seedheads all last well, but this is an opportunity to use whatever you have to hand. If you bind stems with floral tape, then leave them in water overnight somewhere cool, they should comfortably last the day.

Turn the page for ten buttonhole combinations ▷


3
1
2
4



10 buttonholes

1 The *Viburnum carlesii*, *Clematis montana* buds, *Euonymus fortunei* and rosemary in this combination are as lovely for their scent as their form. Split the viburnum flower head into small sections and put in water overnight. Combine with buds and leaves before taping together into your buttonhole arrangement.

2 Hellebores are like little botanical treasures and last for days. Here I've mixed them with *Akebia quinata* and *Euonymus fortunei* foliage. Steep all the elements in water overnight before binding together.

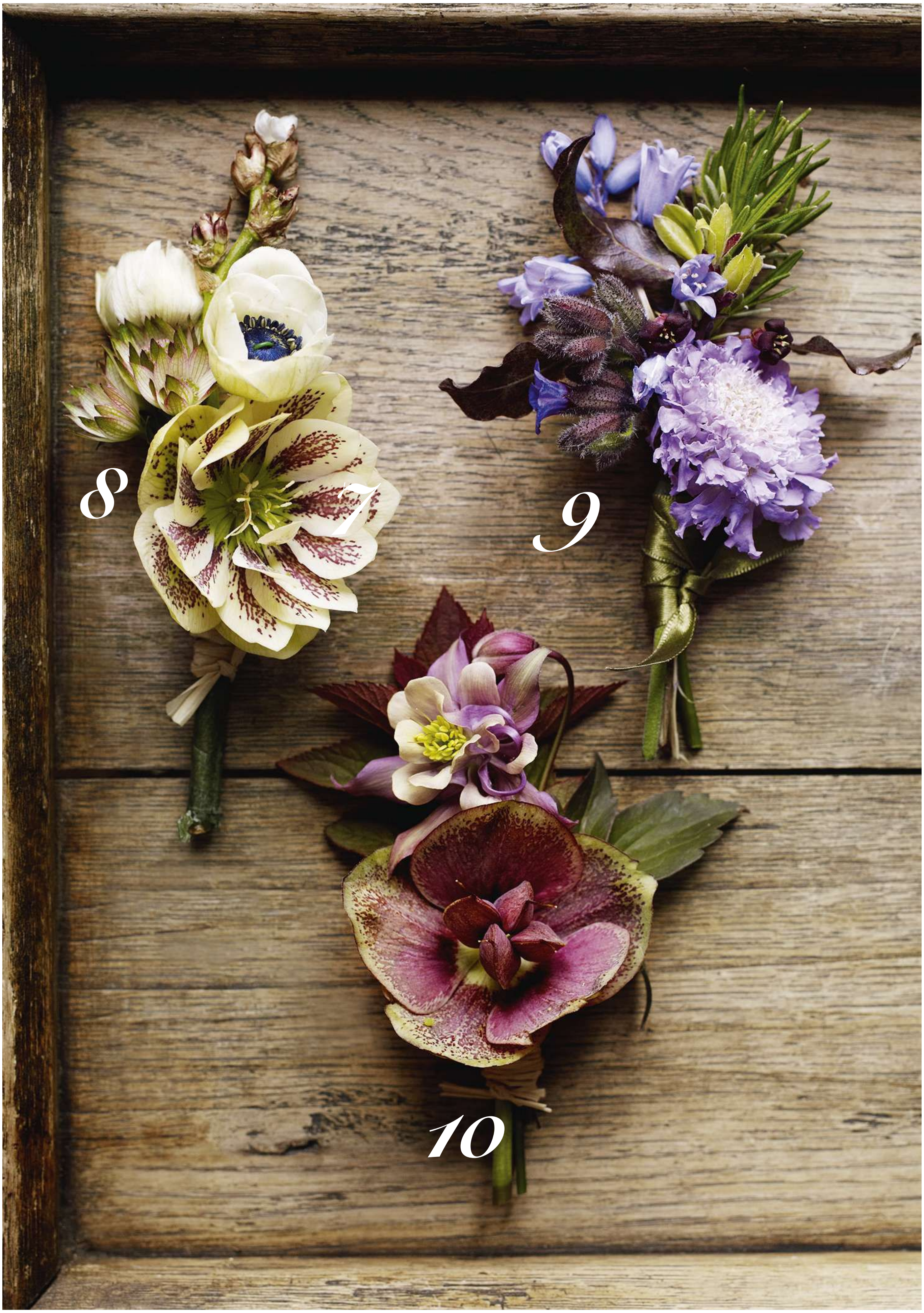
3 The small succulent *Sempervivum tectorum* mixes well with these *Mahonia japonica* berries, and both will last for days without drooping. The hyacinth pips are also long lasting but will need wiring.

4 Forget-me-not is always a great companion for tulips, as is this *Spiraea japonica* 'Goldflame' foliage. Secondary tulip flowers, such as this *Tulipa* 'Prinses Irene', are a perfect size for buttonholes. Freshly picked tulips sometimes open and close with sunlight during the day, adding an element of unexpected movement to your lapel.

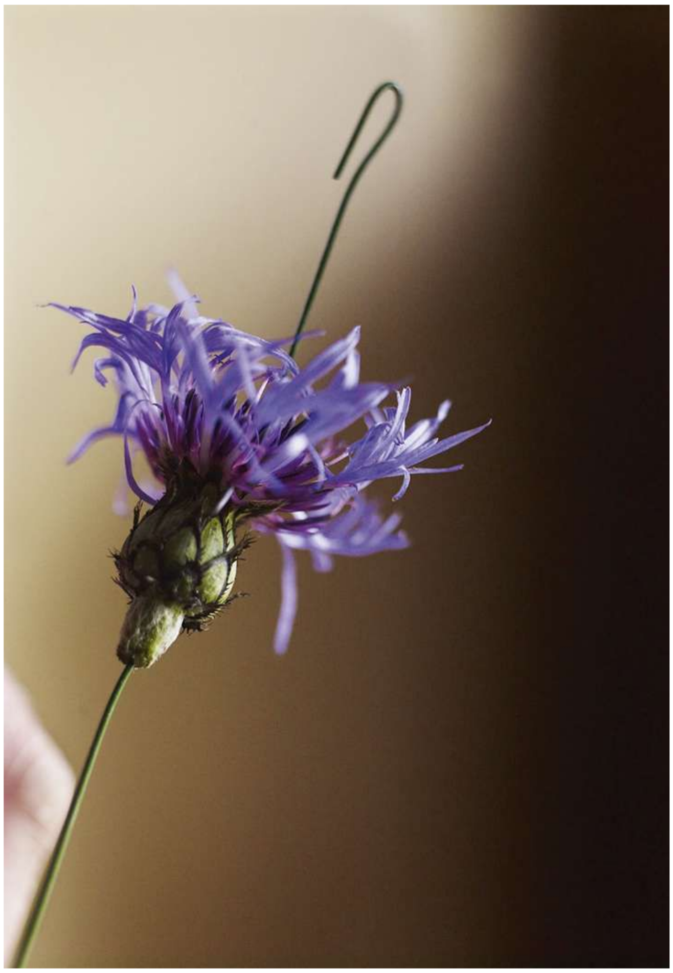
5 *Argyranthemum frutescens*, *Centaurea montana* and *Euphorbia amygdaloides* var. *robbiae* combine well. Strip euphorbia flowers from the stem (beware the sap can be a skin irritant) and leave in water overnight for the perfect buttonhole.

6 The russet leaves of *Spiraea japonica* 'Goldflame' along with the delicate pink flowers of *Akebia quinata* work well with heavy-

Buttonholes continue over the page ▷



THANKS TO CHARLIE RYRIE AND THE REAL CUT FLOWER GARDEN (CUTFLOWERGARDEN.CO.UK) FOR ALL FLOWERS USED IN THIS FEATURE



10 buttonholes (continued)

headed, round flowers, such as this richly coloured *Ranunculus*, which if left in water overnight before wiring the heads, will last for several days.

7 Here a lovely yellow *Ranunculus* 'Picotee' is combined with *Salix caprea* and *Salix purpurea* 'Nancy Saunders' to great effect. It's worth bearing in mind that all willows last well while at the catkin stage, however, the thin wiry stems of 'Nancy Saunders' are especially suited to a buttonhole.

8 Anemones make fabulous buttonholes and here the *Anemone coronaria* combines beautifully with the pretty speckled *Hellebore*. Larger flowers need wiring, so they don't droop, as will the *Astrantia major and Libertia chilensis* buds if they're to stay perky.

9 Bluebells make lovely buttonholes but very quickly droop. This *Scilla* seedling is a great alternative and works well with the blues of *Scabiosa caucasica* and *Pulmonaria* 'Blue Ensign', counterbalanced by the pinkish foliage of *Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Tom Thumb' and the green of the rosemary. Sear the *Scilla* stems in just-boiled water for 20 seconds then leave in cold water for an hour before using.

10 Most clematis last well if left in water overnight, but try to avoid using the youngest foliage as it tends to wilt. This *Clematis montana* works well with the colours of the *Aquilegia* seedling, *Hellebore* and *Spiraea japonica* 'Anthony Waterer' foliage. To make sure they last, it's worth searing the stems of aquilegias briefly in just-boiled water.

How to make your buttonhole

If you want your buttonhole to stay perky throughout the day you will need to wire your flowers to prevent the heads drooping or snapping. To do this you'll need to thread wire through the flower's calyx, make a loop and pull the wire back so the head is secure. For best results leave the cut stems in water overnight then group your mix of flowers and foliage together. Bind your mix together with stem tape – wired flowers are easy to use as they can be moved into any position. Whether you leave the stems bare or cover with tape is down to personal preference, but florist's tape can help prevent flowers and foliage from drying out too fast. Florist's wire, stem tape, sturdy pins and decorative extras, such as ribbon and raffia, can be bought from many online suppliers, such as **britanniadirect.org.uk** or **michaeldark.co.uk**

Join the *Gardens Illustrated* campaign

When we recently spotted a dapper chap wearing flowers casually tucked into his lapel, we realised just how lovely a buttonhole can be. And what better way is there of enjoying the beauty of plants up close? We'd love to see more people wearing flowers, so we're starting our campaign to return the buttonhole posy to its rightful place on the nation's lapels. If you'd like to join us, and have been inspired by our buttonhole ideas, then we'd love you to take an image of yourself wearing your posy and post it via our social media channels using **#BringBacktheButtonhole** (see **gardensillustrated.com** for links), and we'll feature our favourites on the *Gardens Illustrated* website.

In brief

Name De Tuinerie.
What Romantic English-style garden with garden rooms and herbaceous borders.
Where Near Groningen, the Netherlands.
Size 1,400 square metres.
Soil Light, sandy soil, enriched with manure and compost over the years.
Climate Temperate maritime.
Hardiness rating USDA 8.

A riot of colour

Designer Alie Stoffers has a passion both for plants and for finding the perfect hues to create exuberant borders – as her own garden demonstrates

WORDS **INA SPERL** PHOTOGRAPHS **SIETSKE DE VRIES**

Sometimes, on her garden open days, Alie Stoffers overhears visitors saying they must have "come at just the right time". Truth is, it is nearly always the right time to visit Alie's garden. Certainly from April to August, but Alie also ensures year-round interest by planting masses of bulbs for spring and choosing plants with good structure for winter. "Everyone has a nice garden in June," says Alie. Well, maybe. But 'nice' is an understatement for this exceptional garden.

Her generously planted borders have exquisite colour schemes, from blues and pale yellows in front of the house, to pastels and reds. Alie is a genius when it comes to matching colours. "I have a colour memory," she says. She spends time browsing plant catalogues, searching for perfect pairings. One of her combinations is *Silene dioica* 'Firefly' with the dahlias 'Black Wizard' and 'Karma Naomi'.

Her 1,400 square-metre plot is a paradise for plant lovers and enthusiasts of English gardens alike. There is a herb garden near the kitchen, leading on to vibrant purple and hot borders, a woodland walk and a white garden with foxgloves growing in light shade. A romantic summer house stands on a small lawn, and at the far end of the garden is a small, colourful vegetable and fruit plot. Everything is held together by immaculate brickwork paths and neatly trimmed hedges of yew, ligustrum, hornbeam and *Pyrus salicifolia* 'Pendula'. "No swaying grasses here," says Alie, laughing. "I like classical elements. I can't help it."

When she and her husband Jan moved here 25 years ago there was nothing but farmland behind the house. Alie had a clear idea of what she wanted: an axis from her kitchen window stretching towards the open fields, with several garden rooms along it. Her design was inspired by Arley Hall in Cheshire and by Powis Castle and Bodnant Garden in north Wales. What is remarkable is that Alie created her garden before she ▷

Left Alie created this garden on very poor soil over 21 years. It has striking borders, such as the hot and purple borders. A hornbeam hedge separates this colourful garden room from her herb garden.

Alie felt she was missing something in her life. "Then I saw Geoff Hamilton presenting Gardeners' World. *It hit me. I knew instantly: I have to garden"*

▷ ever visited Britain. "It probably had to do with what I saw on *Gardeners' World*," she says, recalling that watching the programme was a turning point in her life. Alie worked in a photo lab, but felt she was missing something in her life. "Then I saw Geoff Hamilton presenting *Gardeners' World*. It hit me. I knew instantly: I have to garden."

Alie started off happily with plants given by friends, family and neighbours, including a *Cornus* var. *kousa* 'China Girl' and a snowdrop tree (*Halesia carolina*), which surprised them with its white flowers in spring. These trees are still very much favourites. But Alie, who was pleased with "everything that flowered" in the beginning, has become more discerning. "You have to find three good reasons for a new plant. As well as its colour, it has to have a nice shape and grow well in your soil."

Gardening is now Alie's life. She has her own garden design studio, De Tuinerie, and admits to working 100 hours a week. Her parents and husband help to keep her own garden in shape. Not having children was her deliberate choice. "The garden is my life, my everything," she says. Every three or four years, Alie digs up her borders. She adds manure, some new plants and plenty of spring bulbs. In the hot border she has just introduced a new *Solidago* x *luteus* 'Greenfinch'. In the purple border, there's a beautiful *Campanula lactiflora* 'Loddon Anna'. "Why not plant *Phlox* x *arendsii* 'Utopia' when you want soft pink in late summer?" she says.

Alie loves her plants but she's not sentimental. When her box hedges were struck by box blight, she says, "It hurt me every time I saw them, so it was time to say farewell." And she's not one to be easily deterred. "I did everything to have *Alstroemeria aurea* 'Orange King' in my garden," she says. It's a bulb that is difficult to establish, but over 15 years her three plants multiplied to 3,000 – "far too many".

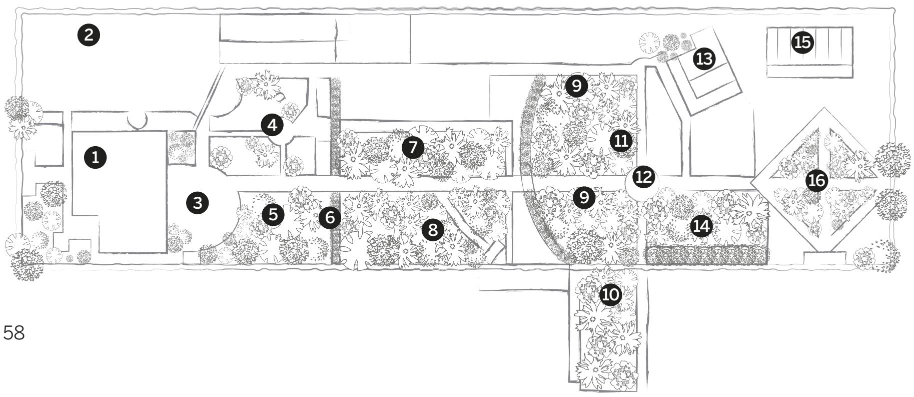
Alie is planning to extend the garden to the south, with more garden rooms, a building for teaching in, and a perennial meadow. Unsurprisingly, she's already designed it. □

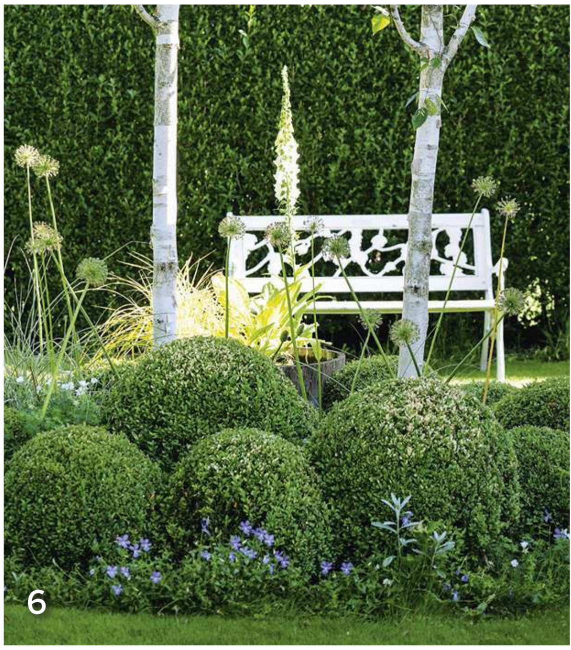
USEFUL INFORMATION

Address De Tuinerie, Vrouwenlaan voor 12, 9615 TB Kolham, Groningen, the Netherlands.
Website de-tuinerie.nl
Open On selected days or by appointment.

GARDEN PLAN

1 House
2 Driveway
3 Terrace
4 Herb garden
5 Crimson border
6 Hornbeam hedge
7 Hot border
8 Purple border
9 Woodland garden
10 Perennial meadow
11 White garden
12 Pond
13 Summer house
14 Pastel border
15 Greenhouse
16 Kitchen garden





2

Open Tuin
De Tuinerie

3

5

1 Alie chose the same brick paving throughout the garden to prevent the paths drawing the eye away from the plants.

2 A beautiful rambler, *Rosa* 'Paul's Himalayan Musk', grows over an arch by the herb garden.

3 A large, well-trimmed virginia creeper is allowed to climb over the roof of Alie's house.

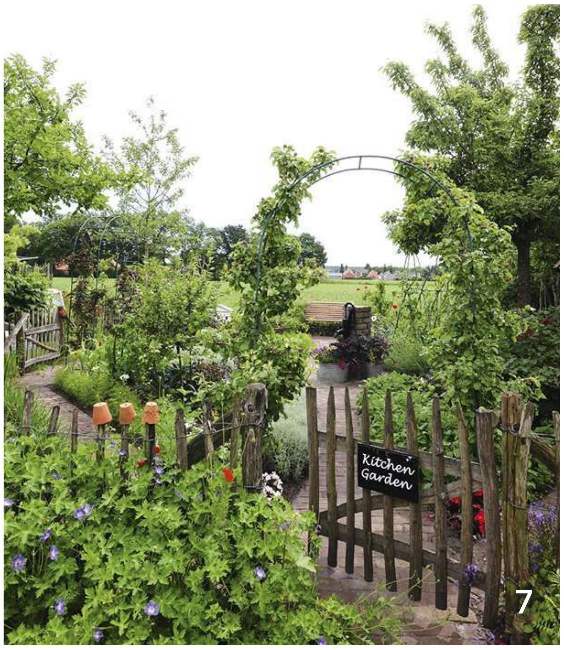
4 A lemon-coloured petunia looks at home in an old galvanised bucket, while *Rosa* 'New Dawn' grows above the archway.

5 To the right of the path, the hazy-blue catmint *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low' sets off the majenta *Geranium psilostemon* and pink *Geranium* x *oxonianum* 'Rodbylund'.

6 White foxglove spires echo the verticals of two young Himalayan birch trunks. *Viola* 'Belmont Blue' flowers in front of the clipped box.

7 Alie has trained two Dutch pears over an arch in the kitchen garden. The long-flowering, hardy *Geranium* Rozanne (= 'Gerwat') partially obscures the picket fence.

8 The summer house verandah is the perfect place from which to enjoy the white garden, especially at twilight.



7

De Tuinerie

8

5 Inspiring plant combinations

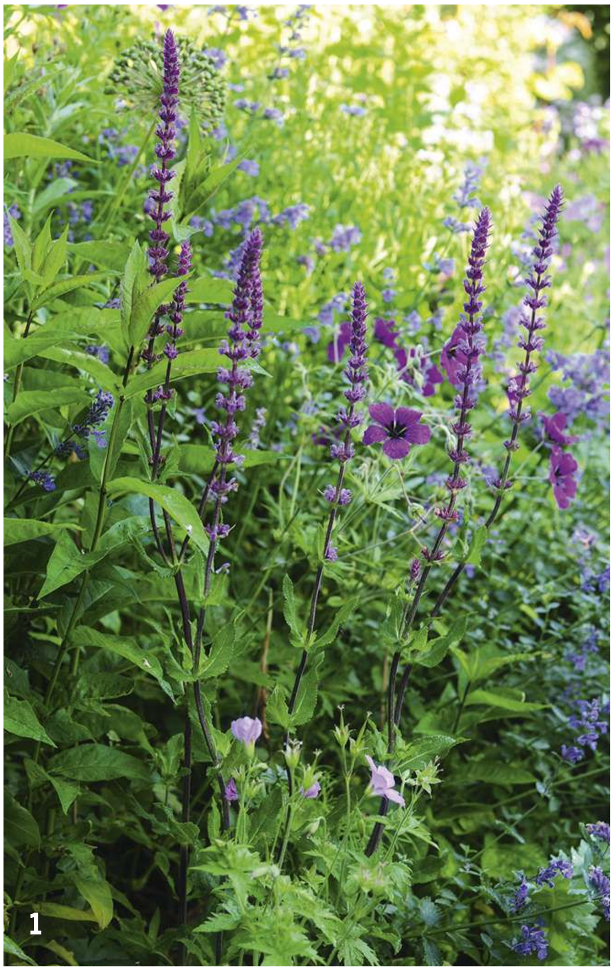
1 Lilac and magenta. In the purple border, *Salvia nemorosa* 'Amethyst' and *Geranium psilostemon* form a gorgeous, long-flowering combination. The salvia grows 1m tall and has spikes of soft-lilac flowers on dark purple stems, which look wonderful with the geranium's strong magenta flowers. This part of the garden room is a joy in summer, with *Rosa* Rhapsody in Blue (= 'Frantasia') and *Thalictrum* 'Splendide'.

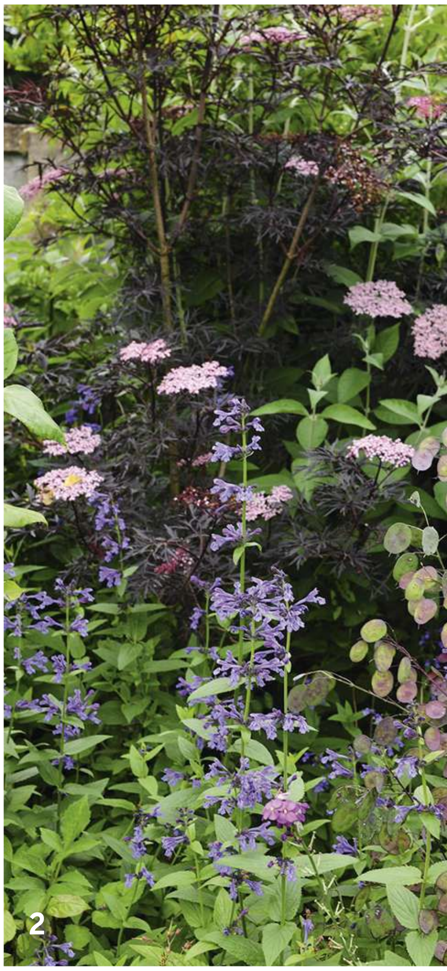
2 Mauve and purple. In the front of the purple border, the pale-lilac flowers of *Nepeta sibirica* shine against the dark leaves of *Sambucus nigra* f. *porphyrophylla* 'Eva'. This elder, with its delicate, light-pink flowers in summer, is a key plant here in all seasons and Alie selects colours to complement it: pink tulips in spring, then astrantia, lunaria and the feathery spires of *Pennisetum orientale* 'Karley Rose' through the summer.

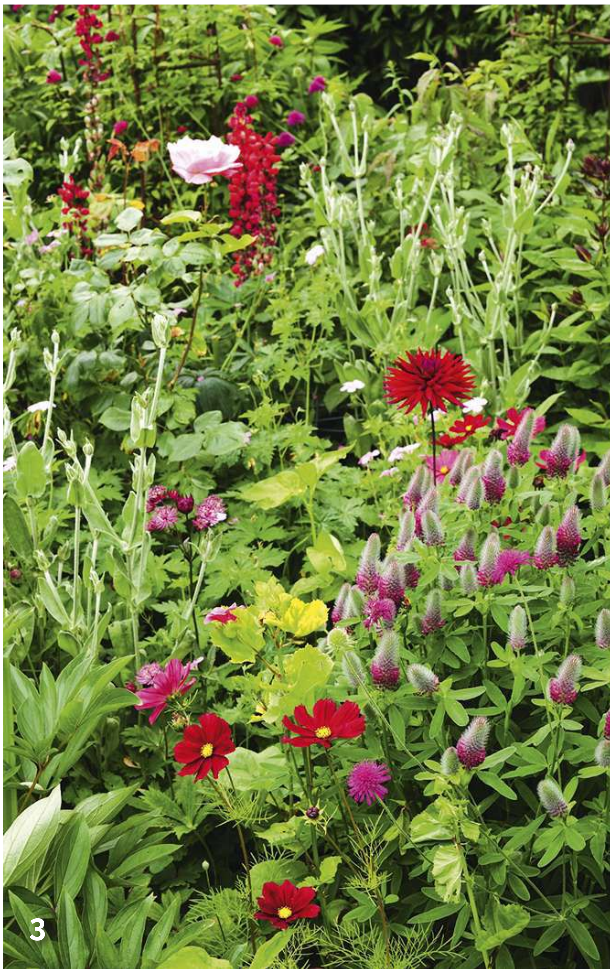
3 Crimson and red. Alie has created some unusual combinations here in the crimson border, choosing plants that do well in partial shade. She's added some soft pink colours to freshen it up. *Lupinus* 'The Page' flowers among *Cosmos bipinnatus* 'Rubenza', the annual *Trifolium rubens* and *Dahlia* 'Karma Naomi'. One of her favourites is the annual *Lychnis coronaria* Gardeners' World (= 'Blych') because of its long flowering period and pretty grey foliage.

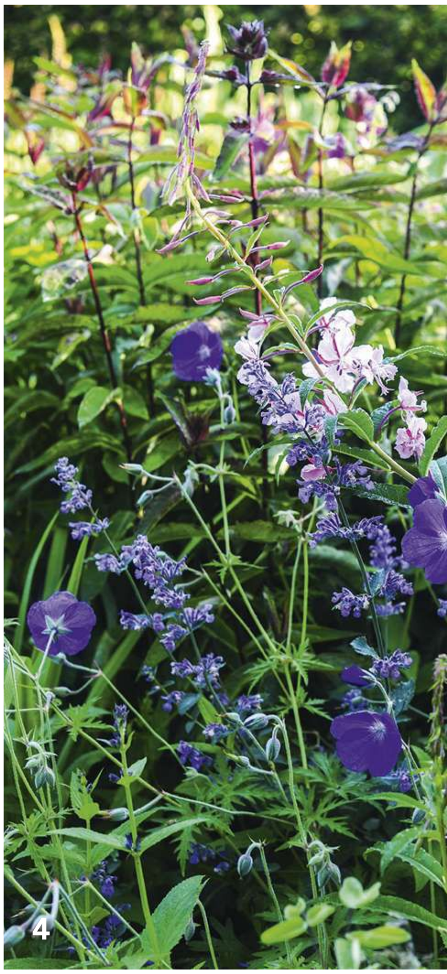
4 Indigo and pink. *Geranium* 'Orion' mingles with *Chamaenerion angustifolium* 'Stahl Rose', *Nepeta sibirica* and the red-tipped leaves of *Phlox paniculata* 'Blue Paradise'. The rosebay willowherb is spreading, but Alie likes it because of its light, soft pink flowers that appear to walk through the border. It can easily be pulled out where it is not wanted. It matches the rambler *Rosa* Mary Rose (= 'Ausmary').

5 White and green. Alie's white border is in dappled shade, thanks to the tall snowdrop tree. "A tree in the border is not ideal, but with the right plants, it is possible," she says. *Rosa* Iceberg (= 'Korbin'), white campion and the beautiful but short-lived annual *Orlaya grandiflora* all flower in abundance.


1


2


3

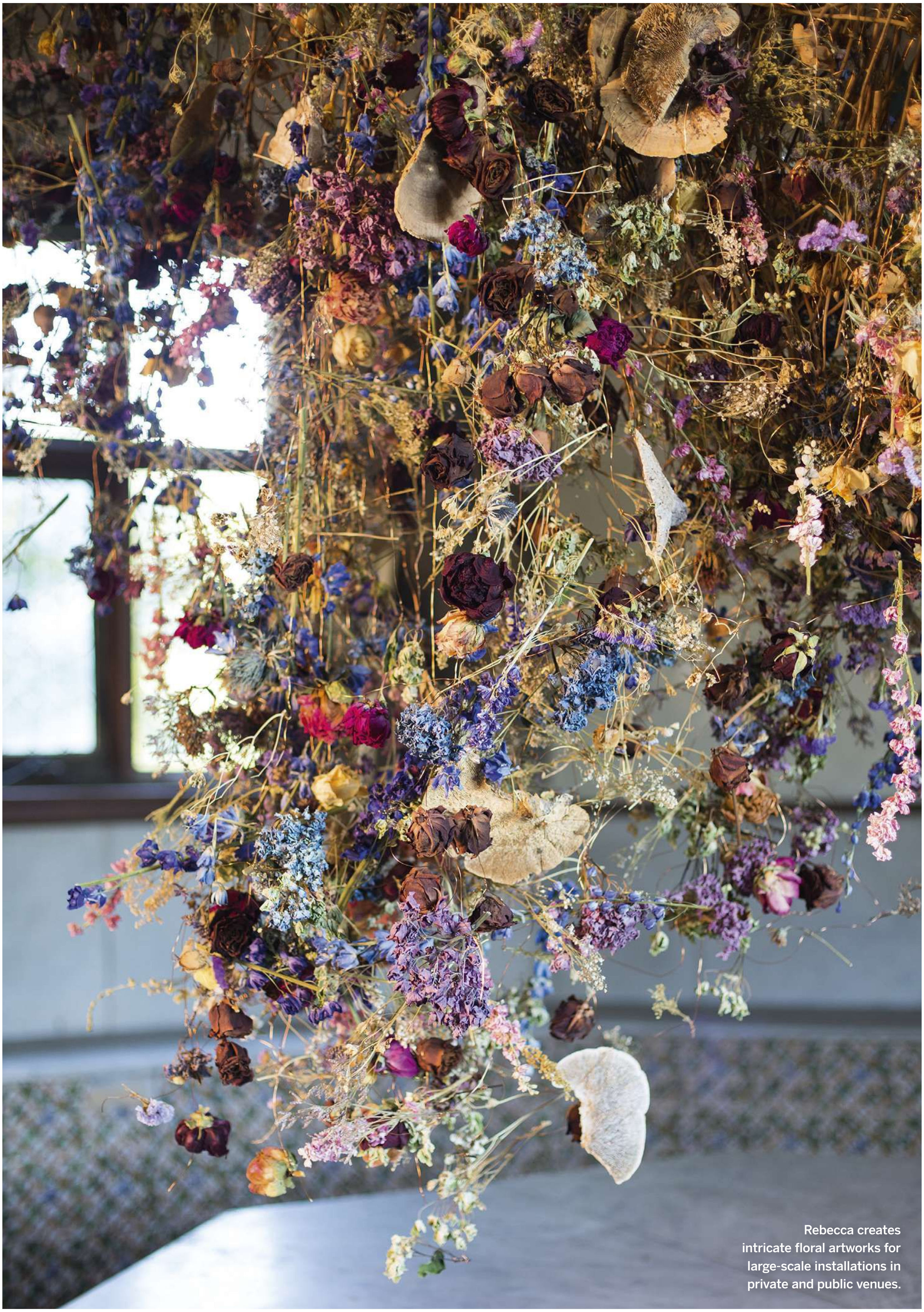

4

5

Natural talent

Artist Rebecca Louise Law makes ephemeral sculptures out of fresh and drying cut flowers

WORDS **DIANA WOOLF** PHOTOGRAPHS **RACHEL WARNE**



Rebecca creates intricate floral artworks for large-scale installations in private and public venues.

As well as its grandeur, Rebecca is also fascinated by the minutiae of nature and her sculptures are as much about the detail of individual flowers as their overall impact

Rebecca Louise Law makes eye-catching, ethereal sculptures using cascades of fresh and drying cut flowers. It's a technique she has invented herself, harnessing both her artistic and horticultural knowledge to create artworks with all the delicacy and breathtaking natural beauty of a wild-flower meadow.

Rebecca studied fine art at Newcastle University where she tried out various natural materials before accidentally discovering the potential of flowers. "My father is a gardener and I went home one weekend and took a load of his dahlias back to college to experiment with," she explains. Rebecca used the dahlias to create an installation exploring the processes of preservation and decay, and realised that she had found her perfect material. After graduating she decided to continue making floral artworks but felt she needed some practical experience. "I had to understand what I was working with before I could work as an artist." Consequently she spent four years as a florist before setting up on her own in 2008.

Rebecca's big break came in 2011 when she won her first major commission, *Hanging Garden*, a dramatic installation made for the Floral Hall at the Royal Opera House in London. It was such a success that Rebecca, now in her thirties, hasn't stopped since and in the past five years she has worked on installations for clients as far afield as Japan, Athens and New York. She also makes smaller sculptures encased in glass boxes and framed pieces using flowers recycled from her temporary installations. "We never throw anything away," she laughs.

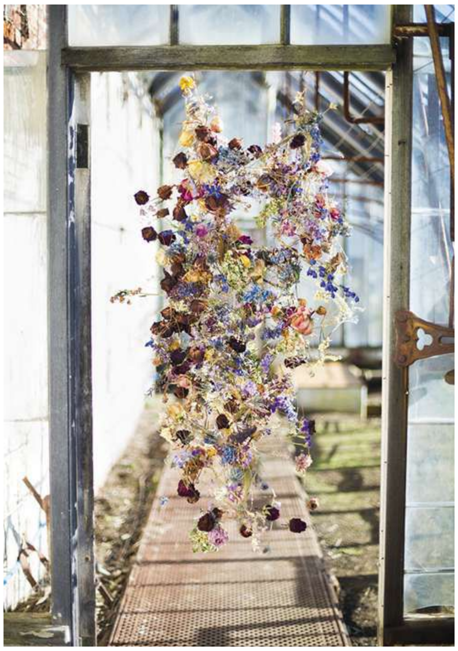
The sculptures are made by tying flowers to lengths of copper wire. These are then manipulated into shape and suspended from the ceiling, allowing the flowers to dry naturally. Part of Rebecca's skill lies in knowing how individual flowers will age and she is constantly experimenting with different species. "It's what I like best – learning the whole journey of a species from beginning to end," she says.

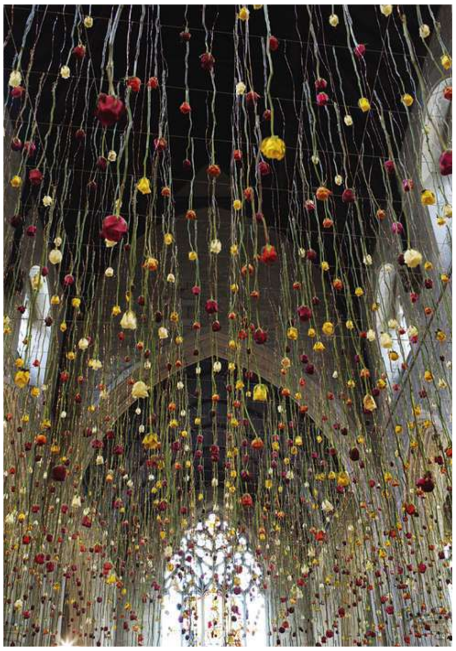
Visitors to the walled gardens at the Luton Hoo Estate in Bedfordshire this summer will get a chance to see one of Rebecca's installations. Although designed by 'Capability' Brown, Luton Hoo's gardens fell into disrepair in the 1980s, but are now being restored by volunteers. "It's somewhere that's really lost and beautiful and an incredible space – it was like a blank canvas for me," says Rebecca. She's used dried flowers collected over the past four years to create an installation called *The Dairy 2016*, a fragile, ghostly drift of plant forms that gently float above an old marble dairy slab.

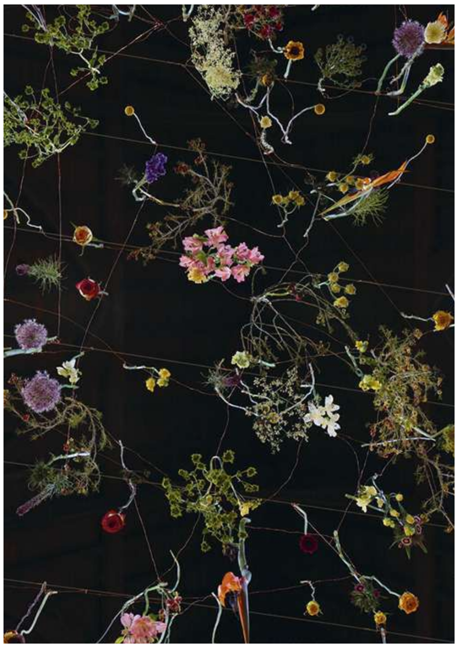
Rebecca takes her inspiration from nature. "I want to capture a tiny part of the awe you get when you are completely surrounded by the landscape," she says. But as well as its grandeur, she's also fascinated by the minutiae of nature and her sculptures are as much about the detail of individual flowers as their overall impact. And this is why she prefers her sculptures to remain in situ for as long as possible, although it may seem perverse to make permanent sculptures out of such an ephemeral material. "The longer the installation is there, the more fascinating it becomes – the colour slowly disappears but the actual structure of the flower remains," she explains, adding, "Flowers can last forever – they are a really amazing material." □

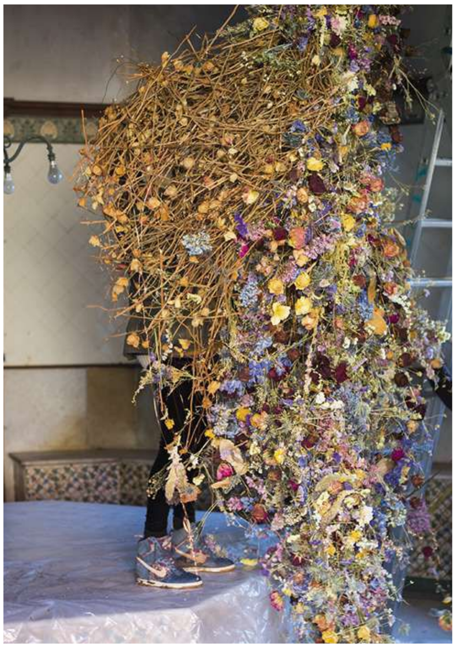
USEFUL INFORMATION

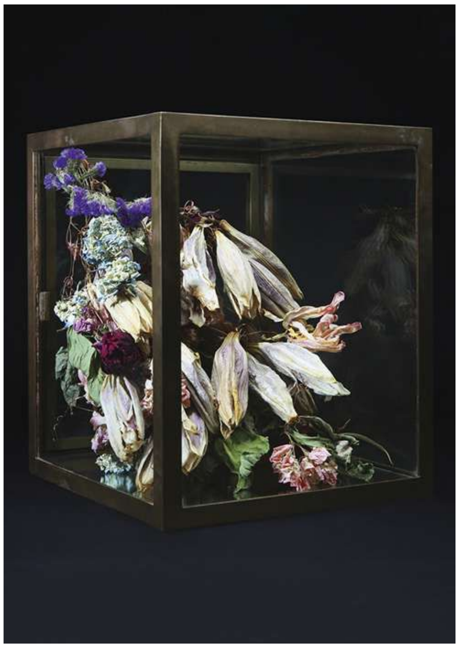
Rebecca's studio is open every Sunday 10am-4pm; artworks are available for sale and commission. See her website for details of upcoming exhibitions. Her piece *The Dairy 2016* can be viewed on guided tours of the Walled Gardens at Luton Hoo Estate in Bedfordshire (lutonhooestate.co.uk/walled-garden), every Wednesdays at 11am, 12.15pm and 2pm, from 4 May to 28 September. **Address** 100 Columbia Road, London E2 7QB. **Tel** 020 7739 0575. **Website** rebeccalouiselaw.com

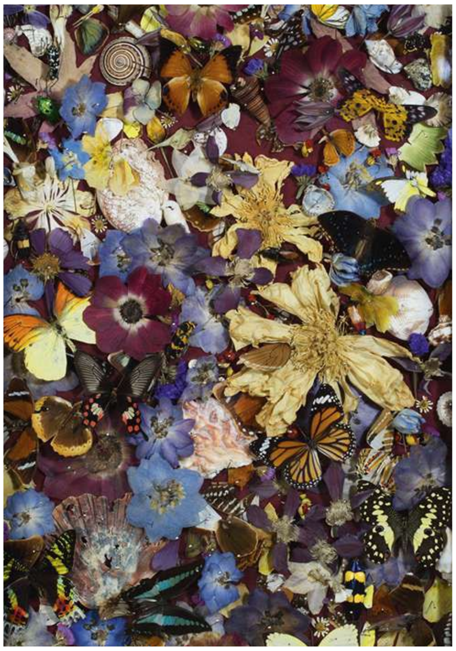


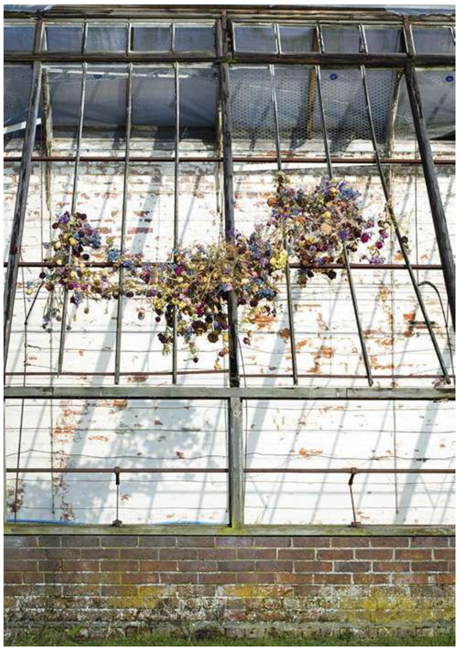












NICOLA TREE

Wisteria

This quintessentially English climber has a reputation for being tricky to grow, however, provided it is assiduously pruned and trained, you will be amply rewarded

WORDS **CHRIS LANE** PHOTOGRAPHS **ANNAÏCK GUITTENY**

In brief

What Five species and two hybrid groups of vigorous, woody climbers with twining stems.

Origins Most are found in Japan, but wisteria are also native to China and the USA. The three most commonly grown species in the UK are *W. floribunda* (Japanese wisteria), *W. sinensis* (Chinese wisteria) and *W. brachybotrys* (silky wisteria).

Season Most flower April to June, but some can flower as late as July.

Size Wisteria are strong-growing plants that can reach up to 20m, although their eventual size will largely be determined by the allotted space. Wisterias can be kept to a height of 2m if grown on a post.

Conditions In the wild, wisteria are found in woodland areas with their roots in shade and leaves in the tree canopy in full sun. Although happiest in moist, well-drained soils, wisteria will grow in most soils.

Wisteria is a vigorous climber that will quickly grow to cover a wall or side of a house, and it needs regular pruning to keep it in check. However, in full bloom, plants such as this *Wisteria floribunda* 'Royal Purple' (see page 69), look fabulous and are well worth the effort.

JONATHAN BUCKLEY / THE GARDEN COLLECTION / FP

Chris Lane is a nurseryman with an interest in plant propagation. He runs the wholesale Witch Hazel Nurseries in Kent and holds four National Plant Collections, including wisteria.

Wisterias are climbing plants par excellence. No matter how it is trained, a wisteria in full flower, with hundreds if not thousands of racemes, cannot fail to excite the beholder. Although the most common wisteria are blue-mauve there are also white, pink or purple forms, and while there are some forms of *Wisteria floribunda* that have only a slight scent, most are highly perfumed adding immensely to their desirability as a garden plant.

Wisteria climb by twining. Some species, such as *W. floribunda*, twine in a clockwise direction, while others, such as *W. sinensis* in an anti-clockwise direction. All have a compound pinnate leaf and the flowers, or more correctly inflorescences, are racemes, which vary in length and contain between 20 and 170 individual flowers, depending on species and cultivar.

The genus *Wisteria* was named in 1818 by Thomas Nuttall to describe *W. frutescens*. This species, which hails from the southern US Gulf states, is rarely seen in UK gardens as our climate is not warm enough for it to flourish. It breaks into growth fairly late, flowering in July on current season's growth, which does not ripen well for the following year and as a result gets cut back by winter frosts.

By far the most commonly seen species in the UK is the Chinese wisteria, *W. sinensis*, which was introduced to cultivation in 1816 and rapidly became popular. The original plant introduced was named *W. sinensis* 'Prolific' (see page 68), and it is still one of the best blue cultivars available, with a gorgeous scent. Other cultivars worth looking out for are the white-flowered *W. sinensis* 'Jako' (page 72), which has longer racemes and a very powerful scent, especially at dusk when its presence is quite ghostly, and the violet-mauve *W. sinensis* 'Amethyst' (page 68), one of the most highly scented cultivars.

A relatively unknown species from Japan, *W. brachybotrys*, or silky wisteria, deserves to be more widely grown. It has fairly short ▷

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.
†Hardiness ratings given where available.

▷ but broad racemes and the individual flowers are the largest in the genus. It also has a wonderful scent and comes in a range of colours, from the white *W. brachybotrys* 'Shiro-kapitan' (page 70), to the rich-purple of *W. brachybotrys* 'Okayama' (below) – one of my favourite wisterias of all.

A better-known Japanese species is *W. floribunda*, which in Japan can be seen in various forms adorning pergolas. In fact pergola cultivation in the UK was first practiced after westerners saw the wonderful pergolas in Japan adorned by ancient specimens, up to 1,000 years old.

Not all *W. floribunda* have long racemes but many have been selected for that trait, including the wonderful *W. floribunda* f. *multijuga* (page 70), considered by the Australian wisteria enthusiast Peter Valder to not only be one of the best wisterias available, but also one of the world's greatest garden plants. The distance between the pedicels on this exceptional wisteria is greater than for other cultivars, meaning that in the right conditions its racemes can grow to more than a metre in length. As the flowers of wisteria open from the top of the raceme sequentially to the tip, in *W. floribunda* f. *multijuga* the first flowers can be over before those at the tip have even opened, giving it a long flowering period.

W. floribunda has given rise to many more named selections than *W. sinensis* and *W. brachybotrys* combined and these are available in a wide range of flower colours and raceme sizes. Among my favourites are *W. floribunda* 'Alba' (page 70), a white-flowered cultivar and one of the last to flower; and the mauve-purple *W. floribunda* 'Royal Purple' (facing page).

There are also some notable hybrid groups worth considering, including *W.* x *formosa*, a hybrid between *W. floribunda* and *W. sinensis;* and *W.* x *valderi*, recently named by the botanist James Compton in honour of Peter Valder, a cross between *W. floribunda* and *W. brachybotrys*.

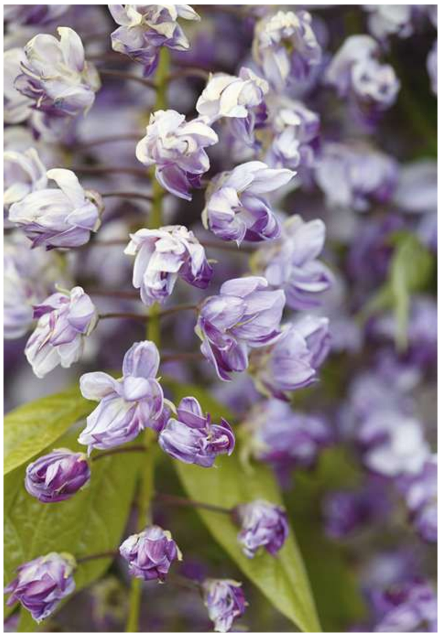
Whichever wisteria you choose, these vigorous climbers in full flower are a glorious sight to behold and provided you ensure they are grown in the right conditions – and are properly trained and pruned – your success in growing one is virtually guaranteed.

• Chris's recommendations for wisteria continue over the next six pages.

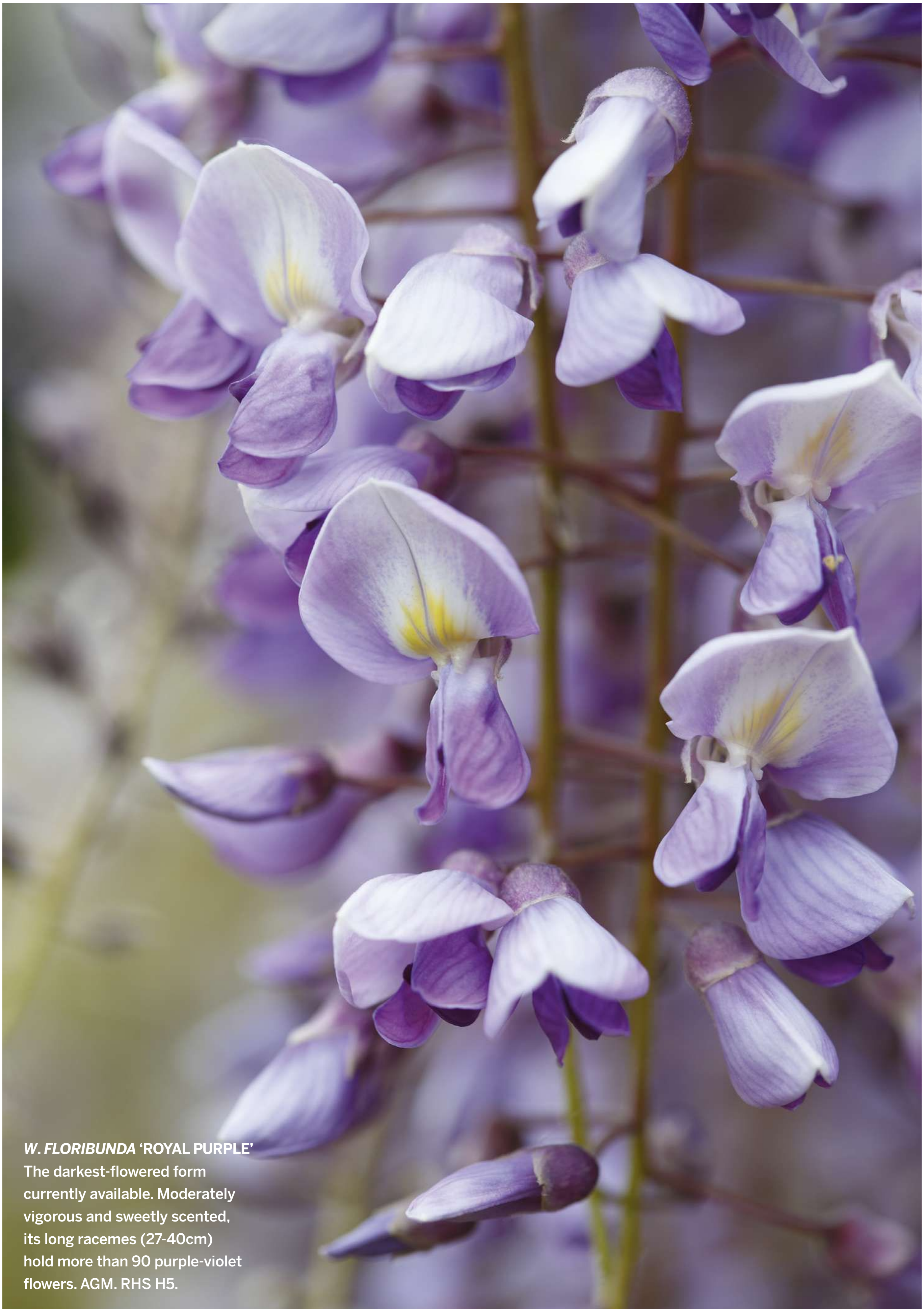
***WISTERIA SINENSIS* 'PROLIFIC'**
This sweetly scented cultivar is the original *W. sinesis* introduced from China, and one of the best for growing on a wall. Its soft blue-violet racemes (16-22cm), contain around 50 to 80 flowers. AGM*. RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b†.

***W. SINENSIS* 'AMETHYST'**
A moderately vigorous cultivar from New Zealand. Its racemes, though relatively short (12-18cm), are strongly scented and reddish violet. Leaves are bronze when young. AGM. RHS H5.

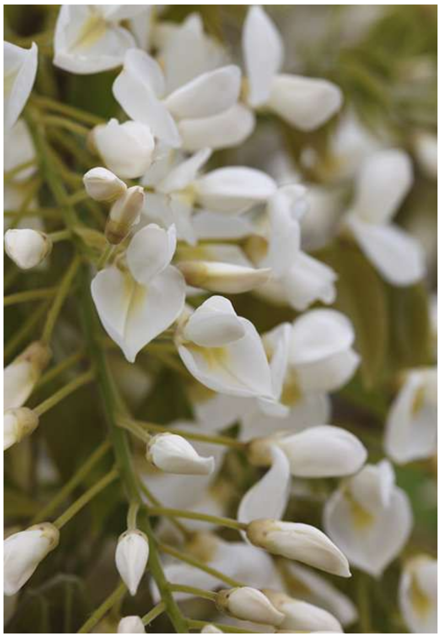
***W. BRACHYBOTRYS* 'OKAYAMA'**
A strongly scented and vigorous cultivar that deserves to be more widely grown. Its leaves are a rich, bronze colour when young, and its racemes (12-20cm) are mauve-purple, with a central white blotch. AGM. RHS H5.



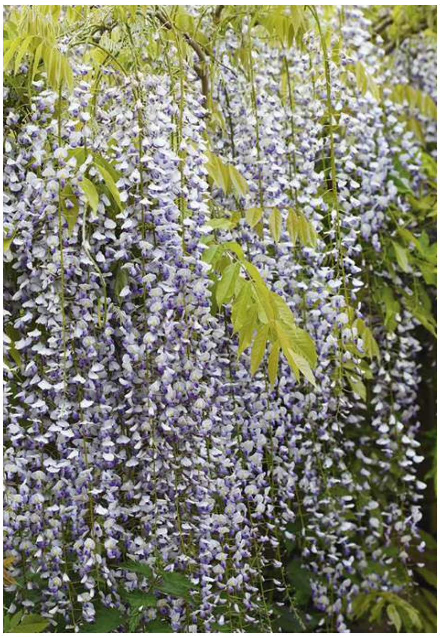
***W. FLORIBUNDA* 'YAE-KOKURYU'**
Each flower of this distinctive cultivar has 20 petal-like elements, giving it a rich, dark appearance. Its long racemes (33-38cm) have dark violet tips and a faint scent. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 4a-9b.



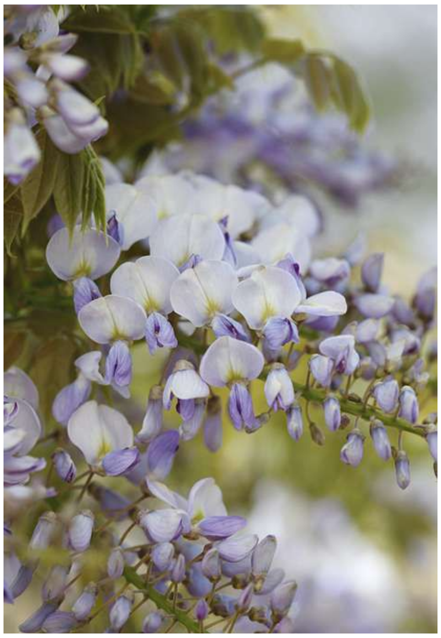
***W. FLORIBUNDA* ‘ROYAL PURPLE’**
The darkest-flowered form currently available. Moderately vigorous and sweetly scented, its long racemes (27-40cm) hold more than 90 purple-violet flowers. AGM. RHS H5.



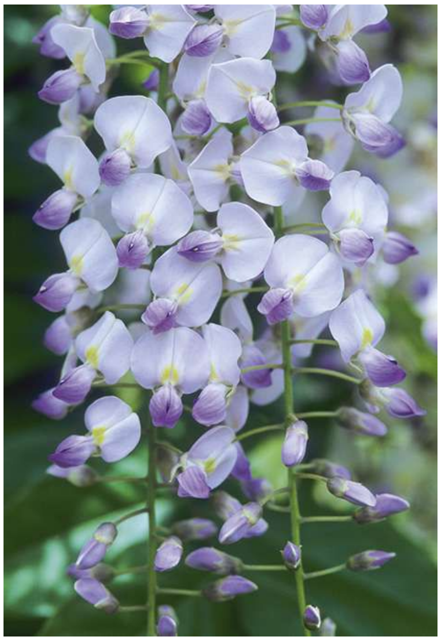
***W. BRACHYBOTRYS* 'SHIRO-KAPITAN'**
This vigorous plant, the earliest white-flowered cultivar to flower, looks good grown on a red brick wall. Its short (10-20cm) racemes hold 20-35 white flowers, each with a faint, yellow blotch. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b.



W. FLORIBUNDA* F. *MULTIJUGA
Best displayed on a pergola, where its long (over 1m), pale-violet racemes can hang down free from any emerging foliage, this is one of the best wisterias available. Vigorous. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 4a-9b.

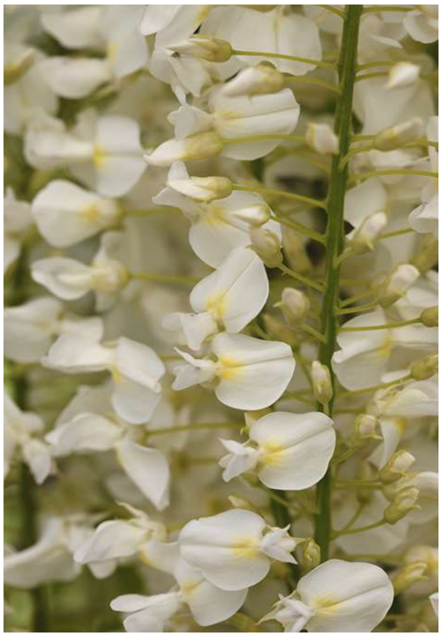


***W.* X *FORMOSA* 'CAROLINE'**
When this moderately vigorous, mauve-blue hybrid was first introduced from New Zealand, it was sold as 'Amethyst' (see p 68), but is quite different, with longer racemes (17-21cm) and a faint scent.

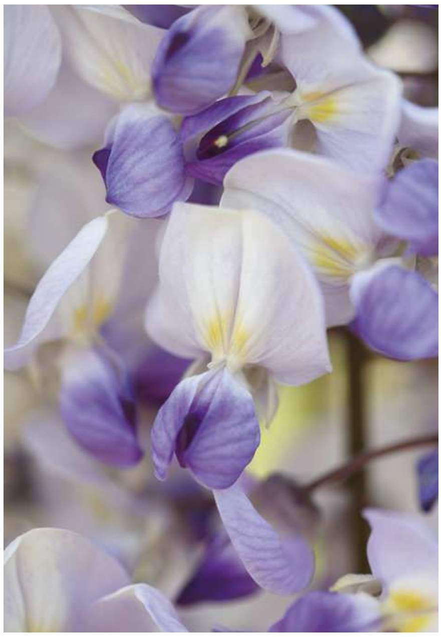


***W. FLORIBUNDA* 'LAVENDER LACE'**
Sweetly scented, long racemes (42-54cm) with flowers that delicately blend pale and deeper violet colours, make this a good choice for pergolas. Young bronze foliage adds additional interest.

HOWARD RICE / GAP PHOTOS



***W. FLORIBUNDA* 'ALBA'**
Also known as 'Shiro-noda', this vigorous cultivar is one of the last to flower. Lovely white fowers with a small yellow blotch and a faint scent. Racemes are relatively long (36-48cm). AGM. RHS H5.



***W. FLORIBUNDA* MACROBOTRYS GROUP 'BURFORD'**
An excellent cultivar that may belong in the new *W.* x *valderi* group. Named from a plant growing on the wall of Burford House, Tenbury Wells. It grows well up a tree. AGM. RHS H5.

***W.* X *VALDERI* 'ERANTHEMA'**
A good bluish-mauve hybrid with long (35-45cm), broad racemes offering a wonderful show. Young shoots are brown in colour, a trait inherited from its *W. brachybotrys* parent.

***W.* X *FORMOSA* 'ENCHANTMENT'**
This lovely hybrid, raised by Audrey Menzies in Australia, is very floriferous, and not too vigorous. With moderately long (17-21cm), bluish-mauve racemes, it's a good form for all types of training.

***W. FLORIBUNDA* 'LAWRENCE'**
This vigorous cultivar, which was selected in Canada, is one of my favourites. It has long (36-50cm), densely packed, blue-mauve racemes and a glorious sweet scent. AGM. RHS H5.

***W. FLORIBUNDA* MACROBOTRYS GROUP 'HOCKER EDGE'**
A cultivar in the same group as 'Burford' (facing page) and just as attractive. Very vigorous, with long (42-60cm), mauve-violet racemes and a moderate scent.

Training

Although wisteria is often seen trained along wires on a house or a wall, it can also be extremely effective grown up pergola supports or archways – especially in the case of wisterias with long racemes that are best admired without branches or foliage getting in the way – or as a standard wisteria tree up a post. But no matter how you train your wisteria, the importance of initial training can't be stressed strongly enough:

- Wisteria are long-lived and will form thick woody stems that will require a sturdy main support. However, only one shoot should be trained up and along this main support.
- If you're growing against a wall, use strong metal wires (3mm galvanised steel) set at least 45cm apart.
- Check growth throughout the growing season, and again in autumn when the growing season has ended. Where shoots have turned round the wires or posts they should be untwined and tied back to the wire using thin plastic tubing material.
- If two or more main shoots turn round each other, stronger shoots will eventually strangle the weakest, and if shoots are not untwined from the wires it will mean the wire will be part of the main stem when the shoot thickens.
- You can also grow wisteria up a tree, which is a much simpler process. Plant the wisteria some distance from the tree, near the outside branches, and tie jute fillis twine from the plant to the branch. Once the shoot has reached the branches it will then soon make its way into the tree and the fillis twine will rot away.

Pruning

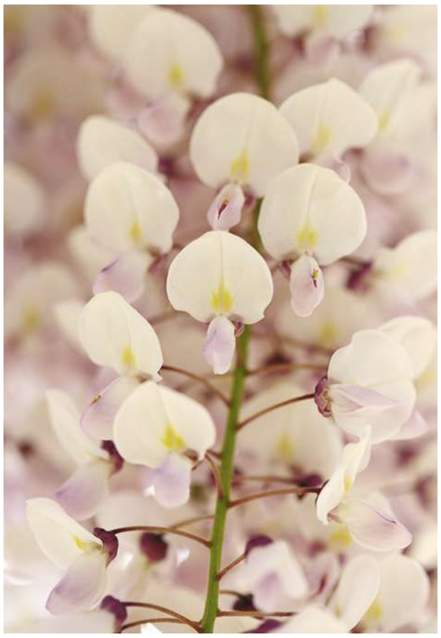
Many people find the idea of pruning wisteria daunting but it's not as tricky as it might seem. Pruning is essential for wisteria, not only to keep the plant's growth in check but also to improve the chance of flower buds forming. Received wisdom is that wisteria should be pruned twice a year, once in summer (July or August) and again in winter (January/February). However, plenty of side shoots will arise from the main shoot and try to climb throughout the growing season, and if you keep cutting back these shoots during the growing season, with the aim – over a period of time – to build up a spur framework (similar to an apple tree), you will encourage these spurs to bear flowers. I know of a garden in Belgium where this task is carried out several times during the summer growth period. The amount of pruning that needs to be done in winter is considerably reduced. As plants age, you can thin out some of the spur branches, again much like an apple tree. Always remove any shoots at the base of the plant, in fact I would remove all shoots below 60cm from ground level, otherwise sucker growth from a grafted plant could take over.

Where to see

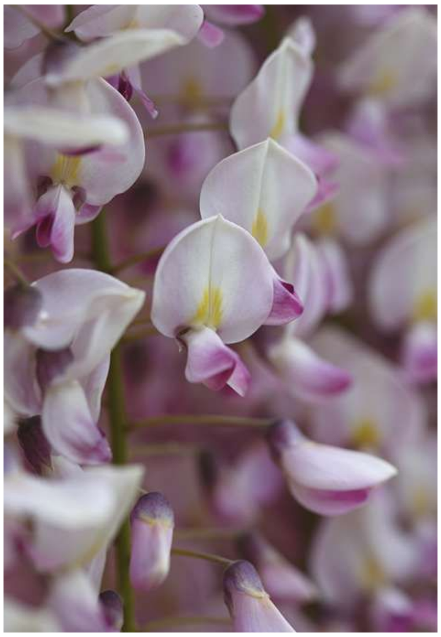
- **The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens**
  Jermyns Lane, Romsey,
  Hampshire SO51 0QA.
  Tel 01794 369317/318,
  hilliergardens.org.uk
- **Nymans**
  Handcross, near Haywards Heath,
  West Sussex RH17 6EB.
  Tel 01444 405250,
  nationaltrust.org.uk/nymans
- **Witch Hazel Nursery**
  The Granary, Cranbrook Farm,
  Callaways Lane, Newington,
  Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 7LU.
  Tel 01795 843098,
  witchhazelnursery.com
  National Collection, open on selected days only. See website for details.

Where to buy

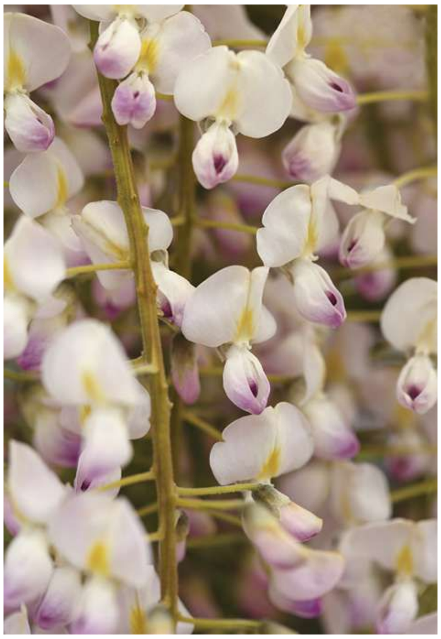
- **Ashridge Trees**
  Grove Cross Barn, Castle Cary,
  Somerset BA7 7NJ.
  Tel 01963 359444,
  ashridgetrees.co.uk
- **Bluebell Nursery and Arboretum**
  Annwell Lane, Smisby, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire LE65 2TA.
  Tel 01530 413700,
  bluebellnursery.com



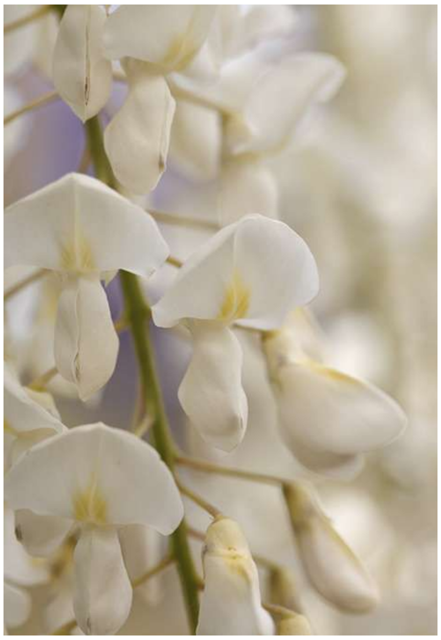
***W. FLORIBUNDA* 'KIMONO'**
This delicate-looking cultivar, with whitish flowers on a mauve calyx, is one of the most admired in my collection and a personal favourite. Very floriferous and moderately vigorous, racemes are 35-42cm long.



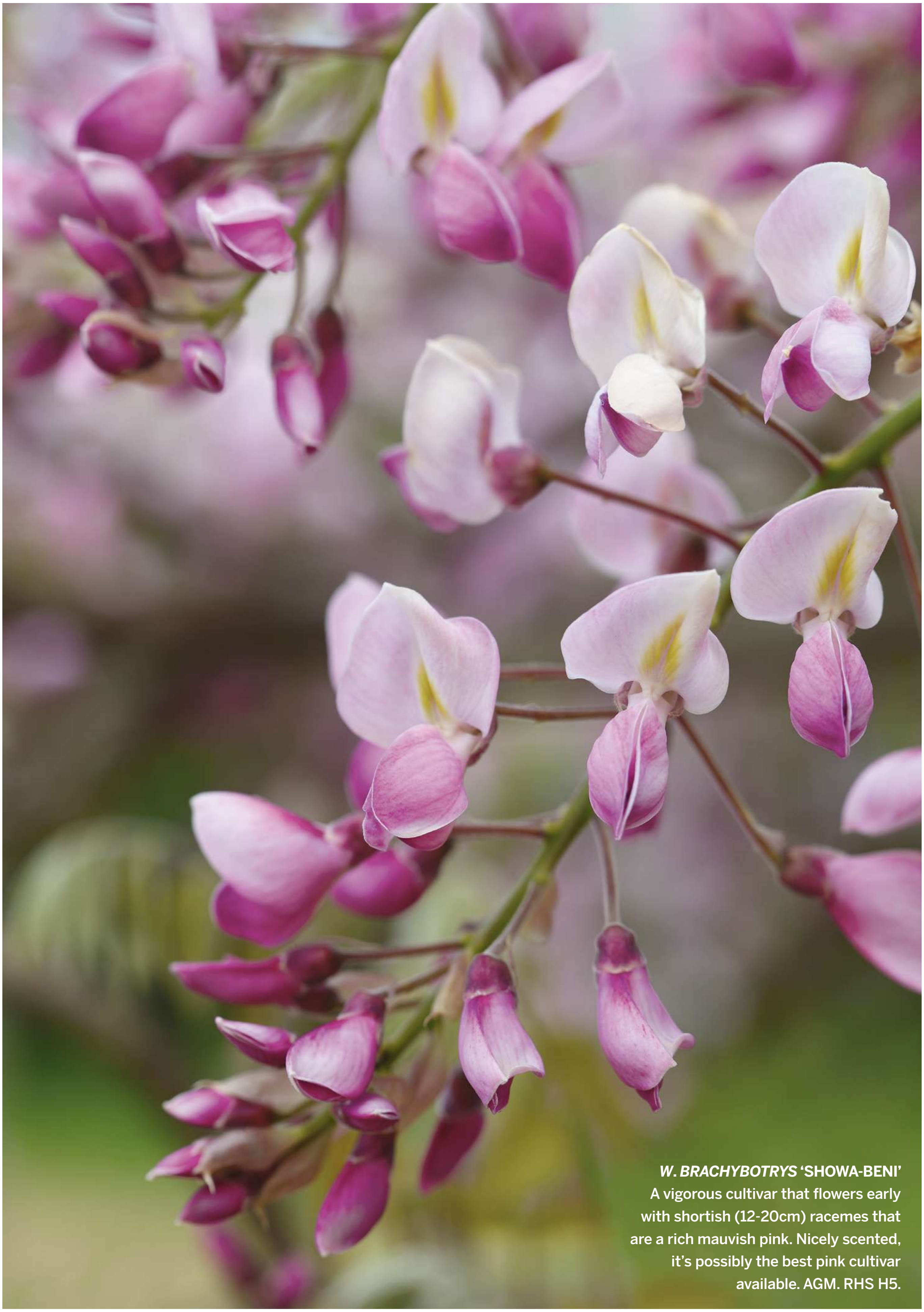
***W. FLORIBUNDA* 'ROSEA'**
Also known as 'Hon-beni' this pretty cultivar has soft lavender-pink flowers and a faint scent. Moderately vigorous with longish (32-40cm) racemes, it is one that works especially well grown over a pergola.



***W. FLORIBUNDA* 'KUCHI-BENI'**
Has a delicate colour, which many people love, and racemes that are 36-45cm long with around 76 to 86 very pale, mauve-pink flowers. Is moderately vigorous and has a some scent. Best not grown in full sun.



***W. SINENSIS* 'JAKO'**
In Japan this is known as *Nioi-fuji*, which translates as fragant wisteria, and it certainly lives up to that name. One of the least vigorous wisterias, with moderately long (25-38cm) racemes. AGM. RHS H5.



***W. BRACHYBOTRYS* 'SHOWA-BENI'**
A vigorous cultivar that flowers early with shortish (12-20cm) racemes that are a rich mauvish pink. Nicely scented, it's possibly the best pink cultivar available. AGM. RHS H5.

Eugénie van Weede

The woman who launched the Bingerden Plant Fairs in the Netherlands discusses her early ambitions, her love of English gardens and planting borders in the dark

WORDS JOHN HOYLAND PORTRAIT CHARLIE HOPKINSON

As a young woman in the early 1950s Eugénie van Weede dreamed not of being a gardener but an actress, and came to school in Britain to learn her craft. With her elegant good looks, vivacity and humour, which persist today, it is easy to imagine the success she would have had on the stage, but the difficulties of post-war Europe denied her a moment in the limelight. Theatre's loss was gardening's gain, because Eugénie went on to create one of the Netherland's most important gardens and to establish a showcase for specialist nurseries, inspiring and encouraging many nurserymen and fellow gardeners along the way.

Growing up in The Hague, Eugénie was not interested in gardening. "My mother was very keen and she used to produce beautiful, colourful bouquets, which I adored. I am sure it was from there that my interest in colour began," she says.

In 1956 Eugénie met her future husband, Dirk, and the following year he took her to Bingerden House in Gelderland, in the eastern part of the Netherlands, which his family had owned since the 1660s. During the Second World War the house had been burned down by the retreating German army and Dirk's father was in the process of having it rebuilt. The yew hedges and topiary that had been laid out in the 1790s had survived. "The memory of that day will never leave me. We parked the car, walked up the drive and came to the courtyard, where I had an overwhelming sense of déjà vu. I felt that I had been here before. I felt comfortable and at home."

It was another 15 years before she thought about the garden at Bingerden. "At the end of a visit to England we went to Sissinghurst Castle," she says. "It was a few years after Vita [Sackville-West] had died and yet you could still feel her spirit everywhere. The garden was a revelation to me. I saw for the first time how the garden at Bingerden might be transformed and the green hedges and topiary surrounded with colour."

With an energy that seems to have dimmed only slightly with the passing decades, she set about tackling the nine acres of gardens. Dividing her time between the family home in Brussels and the garden at Bingerden she worked long days, without help, carving out borders, planting, weeding and trimming hedges. When the daylight started to fade she brought electric lights to where she was working, and installed a fountain so that the sound of water would keep her company. "I planned my weeks very carefully and tackled a specific part of the garden at a time." It is hard to imagine how she did it. "Looking back, I am not sure how I did it either, but it was great fun." She is laughing as she tells me this. Eugénie laughs a lot and you get the feeling that whatever she does, she is having a great deal of fun doing it. As well as hard physical work there was a lot to learn. "I realised early on that I knew nothing and so went on courses in Britain and read as much as I could. At the time there were very few good Dutch gardening books so I used to order my gardening books from England. Penelope Hobhouse's *Colour in Your Garden* was always on my bedside table."

Eugénie was making her garden at a time of radical change in the Dutch gardening world. Nurserymen Piet Oudolf, Peter Bauwens, Rob Leopold and others, who were transforming the way we garden, all became friends with Eugénie and supported her idea of launching a plant fair at Bingerden. Encouraged by her daughter Constance, she applied the same vigour and enthusiasm to the project as she had to creating the garden. The aim of the event was clear: to promote the very best nurseries and to showcase the finest gardening products and practices. Eugénie explains that there was also another reason. "I still hadn't got a gardener and I thought we might be able to make some money to help pay for one."

The International Specialist Nursery Days at Bingerden, introduced in 1996, are now one of Europe's pre-eminent plant and garden shows, presenting some of the best nurseries in the beautiful setting of Eugénie's garden. Many nurserymen speak of the inspiration and encouragement Eugénie has given them. She, of course, brushes away any hint of a compliment and prefers to talk instead of the support and advice that she has received from growers and gardeners.

Constance has now taken over the running of Bingerden but Eugénie is still very involved. "Everything we do is to help protect Bingerden and preserve it for the future. I have helped along the way and it has been, it still is, great fun." □

USEFUL INFORMATION

International Specialist Nursery Days celebrates 20 years on 17-19 June. Huis Bingerden, Bingerdenseweg 21, 6986 CE Angerlo, the Netherlands. Tel +31 (0) 313 48 42 38, bingerden.com

NEXT MONTH Gardener, presenter and novelist Alan Titchmarsh.

"The garden was a revelation to me. I saw for the first time how Bingerden might be transformed and the green hedges and topiary surrounded with colour"

Three colours green

On a shady site in north London, designer Declan Buckley has worked with the existing trees to create a lushly planted garden that is utterly magical all year round

WORDS NATASHA GOODFELLOW
PHOTOGRAPHS MARIANNE MAJERUS

When garden designer Declan Buckley was asked to work on this north London garden, the brief was a tricky one. First, the area was almost entirely in shade thanks to several enormous oaks, poplars, limes and sycamores and, since it lies within a conservation area, there was no question of cutting them down. Second, the house – a sleek, brick, cedar and glass construction – was designed so almost every room looks out on to the garden and, finally, the house was undergoing extensive remodelling so was, quite literally, a building site with heavily compacted soil.

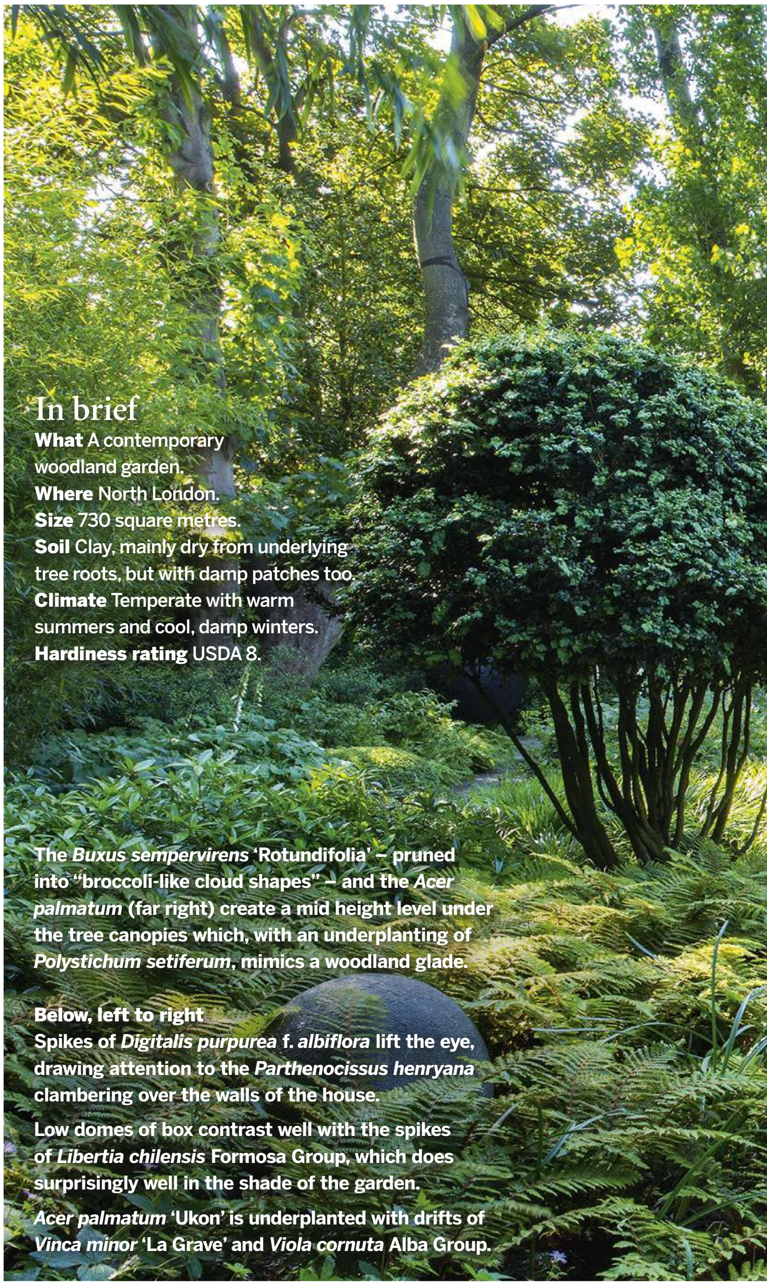
It would be a challenge for anyone, but as soon as Declan saw the site, any concerns melted away. "I first came in summer when the trees were in full leaf with the sunlight dappling through, and it was just magical," he says. "I knew immediately we had to do a woodland garden – there was no point pretending this could be anything else."

Luckily the clients, a young family, loved the idea and so the hunt began for plants that could cope with varying levels of shade, while still providing winter structure and year-round interest. "There's nowhere to hide here," says Declan. "The entire garden is always on show."

Specimen trees, including two *Buxus sempervirens* 'Rotundifolia', two acers, a beautiful *Cornus kousa* and an existing corkscrew hazel have been effectively employed to create a mid-level in the garden between the existing tree canopies and the underplanting. "I wanted to draw the eye down," says Declan. In late winter and early spring, this planting is a sea of delicate *Polystichum* fronds contrasting with the sword-like foliage of *Libertia chilensis* Formosa Group and the buff-coloured *Hakonechloa macra*, dotted with white daffodils. By early summer, the hakonechloa has transformed into a tactile mane of fresh green and the libertia is in flower, joined by swathes of *Geranium nodosum* and *Viola cornuta* Alba Group. *Liriope muscari* 'Big Blue', *Anemone* x *hybrida* 'Honorine Jobert' and *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Soeur Thérèse' take over later in the season and continue the white and pale purply blue colour scheme, chosen to light up the shadows. Two climbing hydrangeas – *Schizophragma hydrangeoides* var. *concolor* 'Moonlight' and *Pileostegia viburnoides* – have been trained up the trees to clothe the trunks, while domes of box, clumps of *Osmanthus* x *burkwoodii* and drifts of skimmia add evergreen interest.

A simple, resin-bonded gravel path cuts through the planting, wrapping around the house in one direction and leading from the sunken, polished concrete terrace to a suspended garden seat in the other. Privacy is afforded by dense plantings of *Phyllostachys aurea* (restricted from

▷



In brief

What A contemporary woodland garden.
Where North London.
Size 730 square metres.
Soil Clay, mainly dry from underlying tree roots, but with damp patches too.
Climate Temperate with warm summers and cool, damp winters.
Hardiness rating USDA 8.

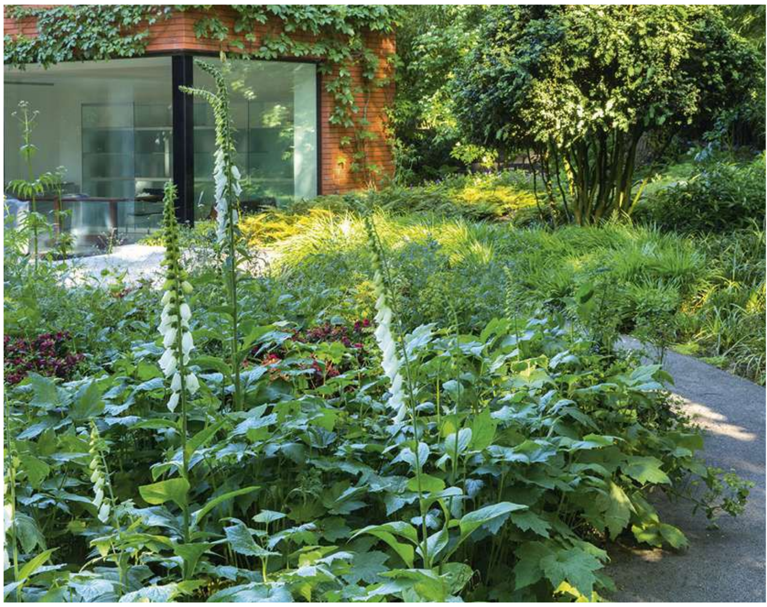
The *Buxus sempervirens* 'Rotundifolia' – pruned into "broccoli-like cloud shapes" – and the *Acer palmatum* (far right) create a mid height level under the tree canopies which, with an underplanting of *Polystichum setiferum*, mimics a woodland glade.

Below, left to right

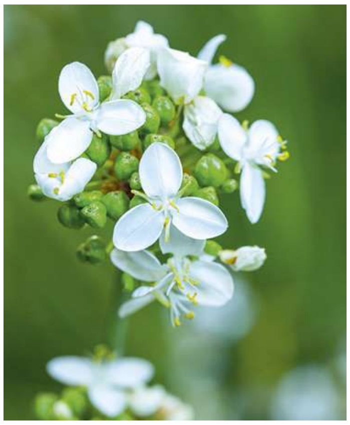
Spikes of *Digitalis purpurea* f. *albiflora* lift the eye, drawing attention to the *Parthenocissus henryana* clambering over the walls of the house.

Low domes of box contrast well with the spikes of *Libertia chilensis* Formosa Group, which does surprisingly well in the shade of the garden.

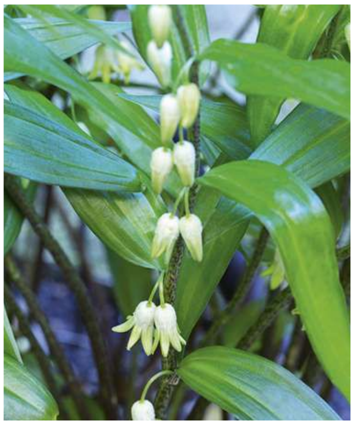
***Acer palmatum* 'Ukon' is underplanted with drifts of *Vinca minor* 'La Grave' and *Viola cornuta* Alba Group.**



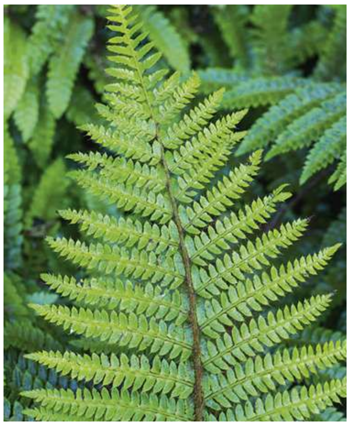
4 plants for shady gardens



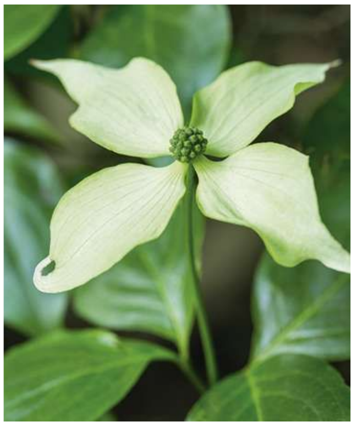
Libertia chilensis
Formosa Group
A perennial with upright leaves that looks good all year. 90cm. AGM*. RHS H3, USDA 8a-11†.



Disporopsis pernyi
Glossy-leaved evergreen with lemon-scented, bell-shaped flowers. Slowly forms strong colonies. 40cm. USDA 7a-9b.



Polystichum setiferum
An easy, evergreen fern. Happy in dry shade or, with a little more water, some sun. 1.2m. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 5a-8b.

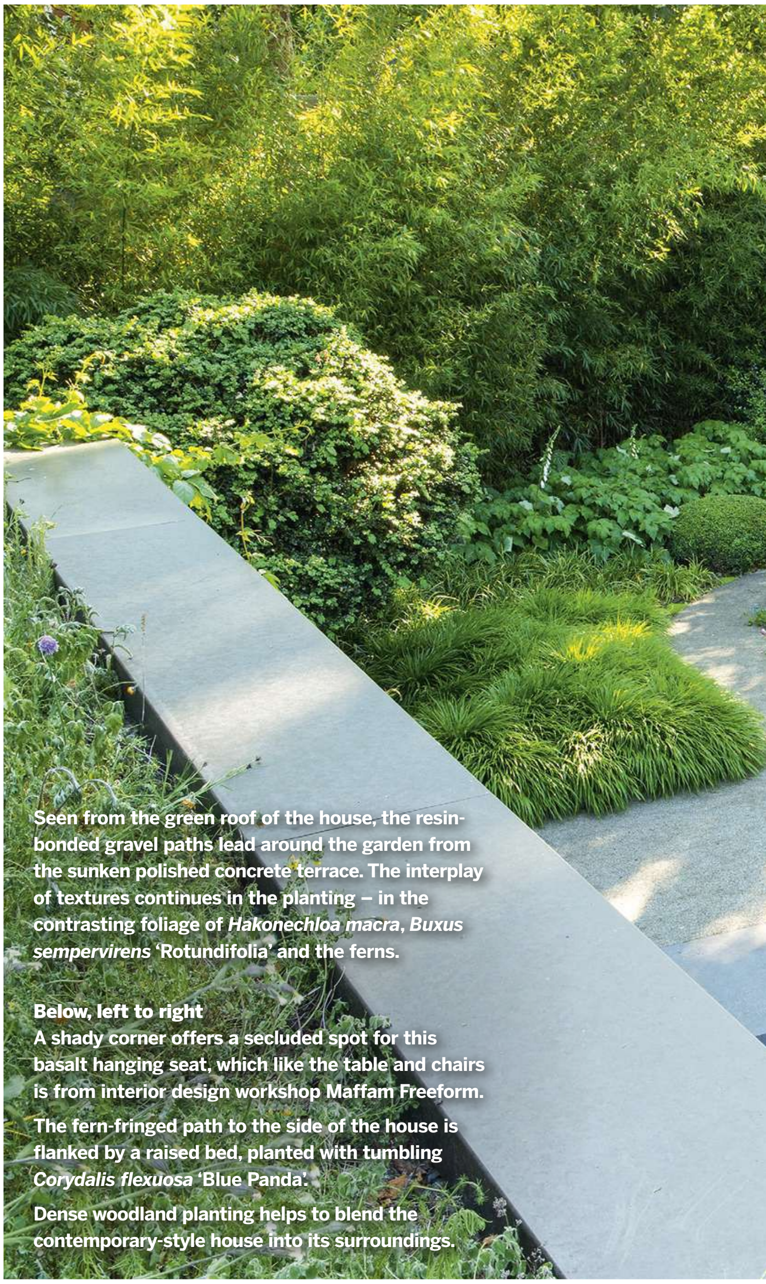


Cornus kousa
Tiny green flowers in May and June are surrounded by showy, creamy-white bracts that fade to pink. 8m. RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b.

▷ spreading by a root barrier), which adds a lovely rustling sound as the wind blows through the leaves and droops beautifully after rain.

It looks effortless, but this was far from the case. "We had to rotivate extensively, being careful to avoid all the tree roots," says Declan, explaining how he tackled the compacted soil. Organic matter was added in huge amounts to improve the soil structure, as well as an extensive irrigation system to counteract the drying effect of so many mature trees. Though important in the first few years, this should hardly be necessary once the new specimen trees are established. "Everything about this garden has been about working with the site to create a sense of place," says Declan. "It was great to have a client who fully embraced the concept and understood it was just too shady to have a lawn." □

USEFUL INFORMATION
Buckley Design Associates
Tel 020 7359 9076. **Website** buckleydesignassociates.com



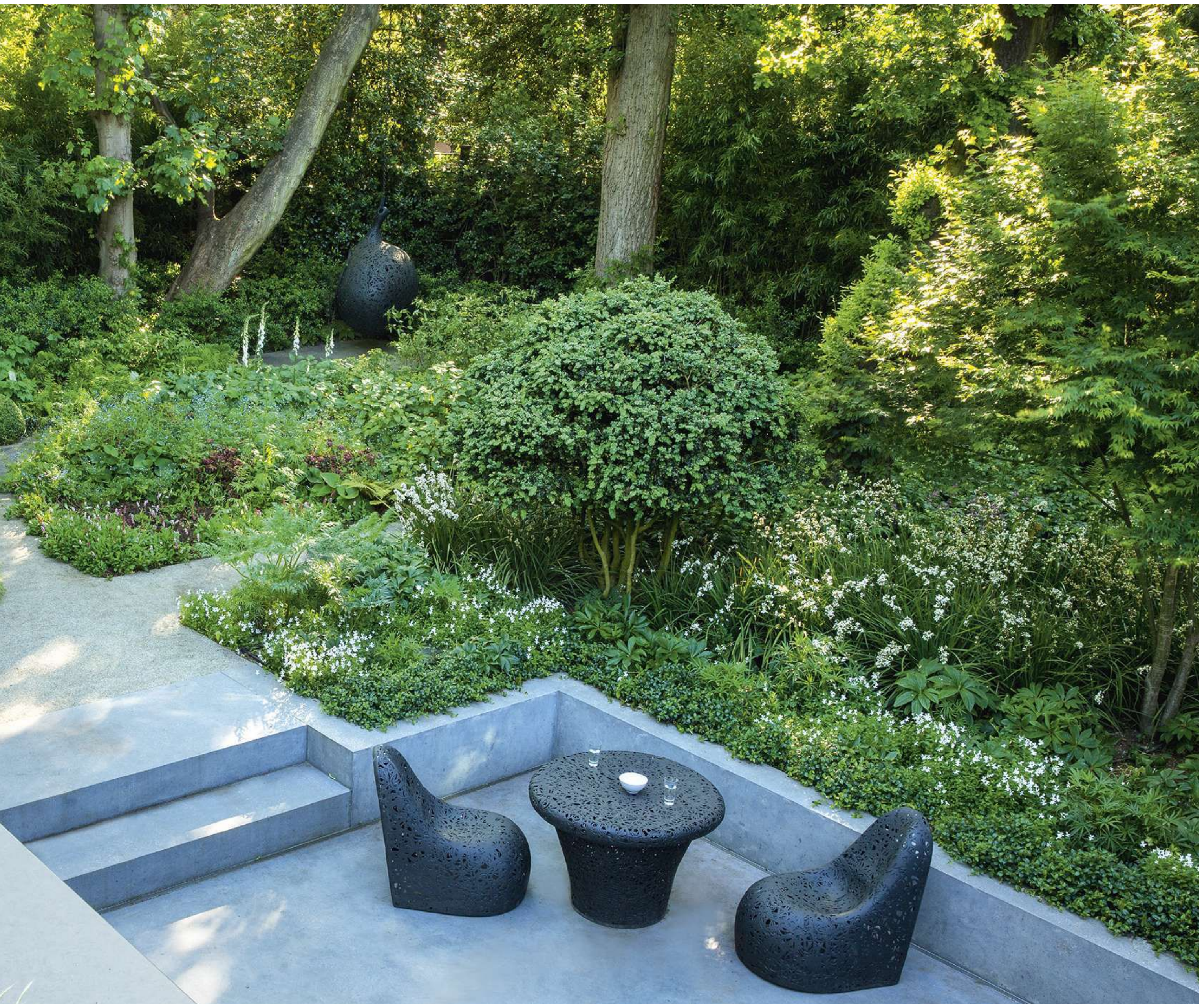
Seen from the green roof of the house, the resin-bonded gravel paths lead around the garden from the sunken polished concrete terrace. The interplay of textures continues in the planting – in the contrasting foliage of *Hakonechloa macra*, *Buxus sempervirens* 'Rotundifolia' and the ferns.

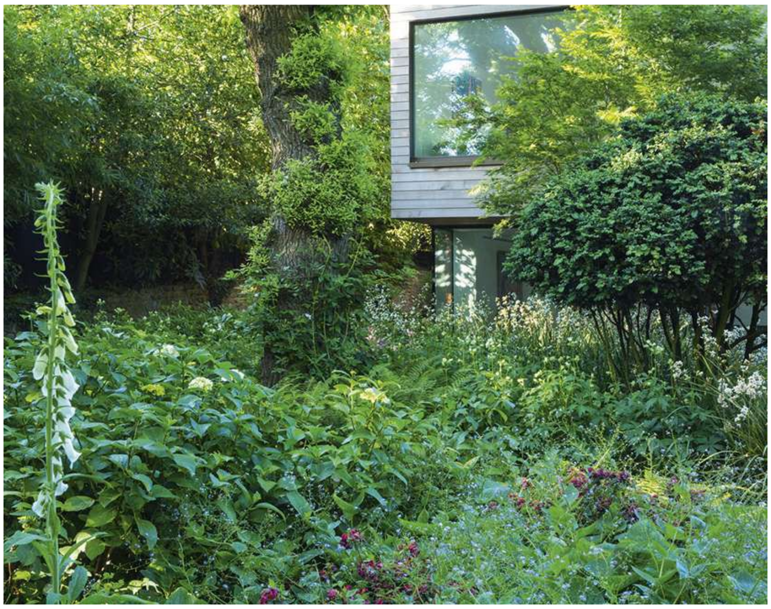
Below, left to right
A shady corner offers a secluded spot for this basalt hanging seat, which like the table and chairs is from interior design workshop Maffam Freeform.

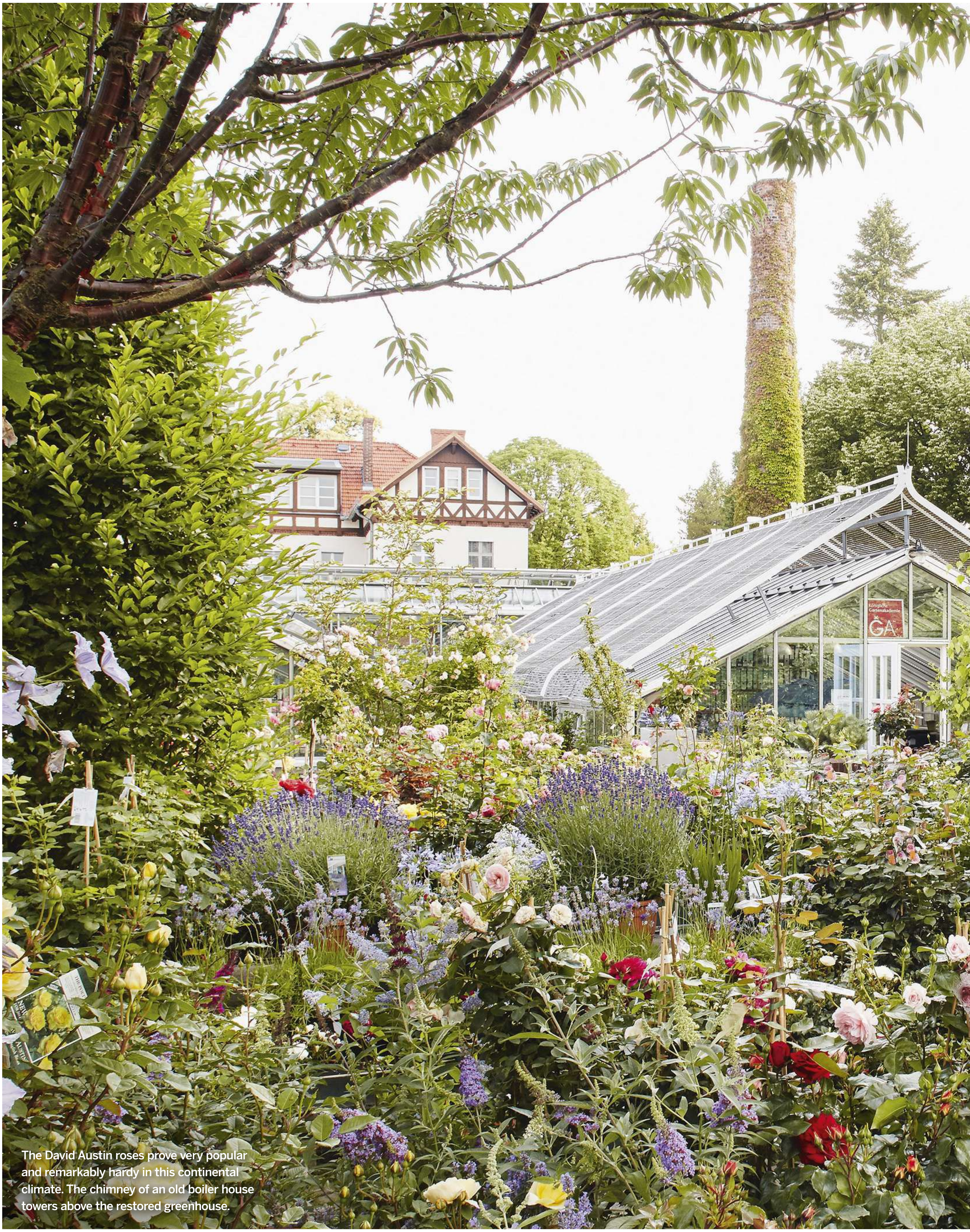
The fern-fringed path to the side of the house is flanked by a raised bed, planted with tumbling *Corydalis flexuosa* 'Blue Panda'.

Dense woodland planting helps to blend the contemporary-style house into its surroundings.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.






Königliche Gartenakademie
GA

The David Austin roses prove very popular and remarkably hardy in this continental climate. The chimney of an old boiler house towers above the restored greenhouse.

Kingdom of heavenly scent

At Königliche Gartenakademie in Berlin, designers Gabriella Pape and Isabelle Van Groeningen have established not only a garden school and studio, but also a thriving nursery and café

WORDS **INA SPERL** PHOTOGRAPHS **SABRINA ROTHE** PRODUCTION **MICHAEL BRECKWOLDT**

When you pass though the entrance arch – formed by two graceful pear trees – to Königliche Gartenakademie in the suburbs of Berlin, you feel as though you've stepped not just into an extraordinary nursery but another world. The sounds from the street immediately recede among an abundance of colour and fragrance, and as you make your way through the nursery, trees and shrubs give way to a selection of fragrant roses. Venture further still and you find yourself among a huge array of perennials arranged by colour, a long border, exuberantly planted with perennials and roses, and finally, at the end of a path lined by *Alchemilla mollis* and *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low', you reach the shade-loving plants. But even this is still just a fraction of what this plant lover's paradise has to offer, for the two-acre site also houses a café, design studio and garden school.

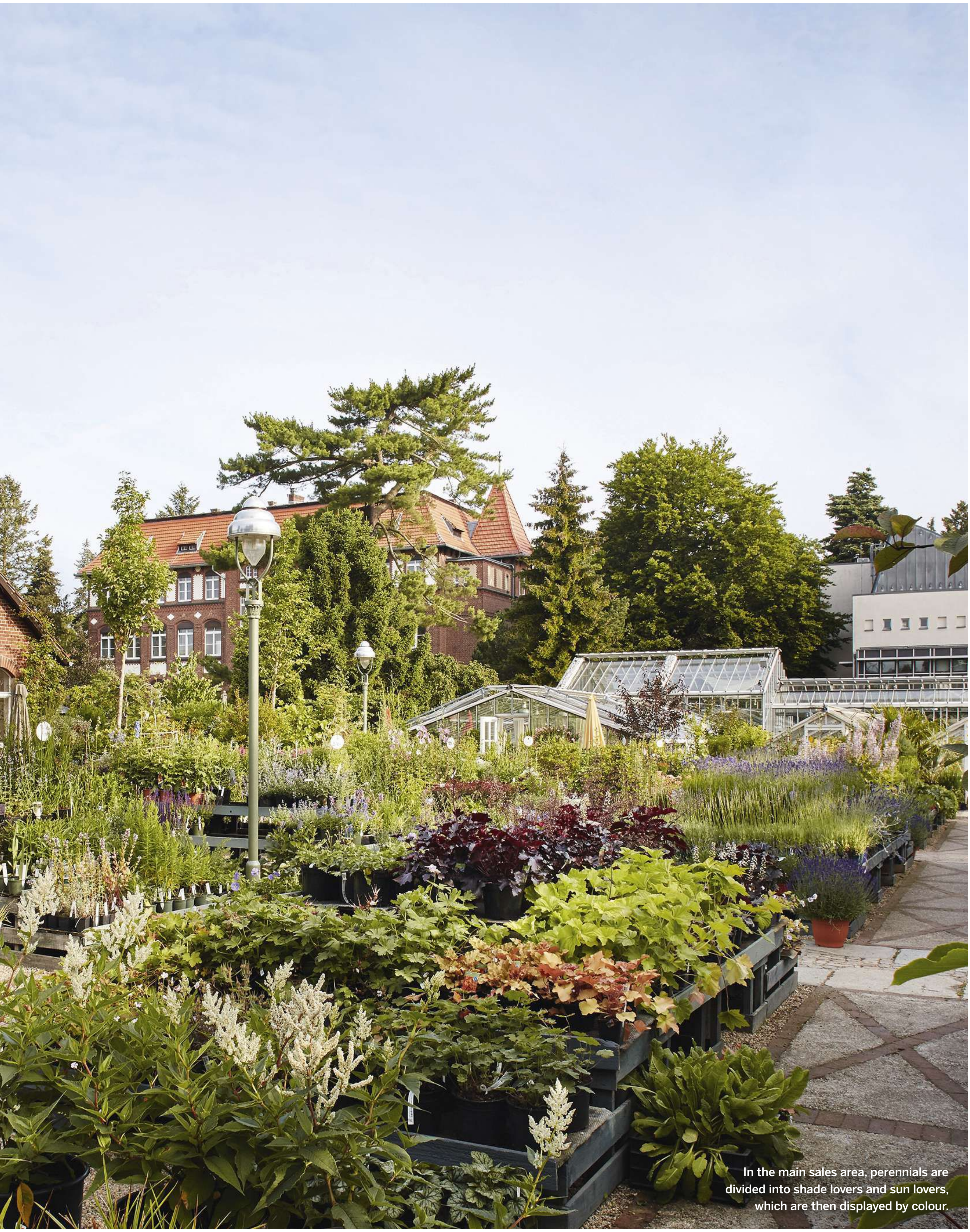
It's all the personal kingdom of German garden designer Gabriella Pape and Belgian garden historian and designer Isabelle Van Groeningen. For 20 years, the pair ran a successful design practice in Oxfordshire, and were influential in the British gardening scene. Then in 2008, they decided it was time for something new. "I wanted my legacy to be more than just 500 big gardens," says Gabriella. "I wanted to create a cultural institution."

The pair's answer was to establish a gardening academy, something they thought was needed more in Germany than the UK. "When I made a garden in Germany," says Gabriella, "often people ▷

1 In Berlin few people have a garden but most have a balcony or terrace, which is used intensively during the hot summer months. The nursery offers a wide selection of tender shrubs, half-hardy perennials as well as unusual annuals.

2 Although most perennials for sale are sorted by colour, there are mixed displays to give customers inspiration for their planting schemes.

3 A tall espalier hedge of *Malus* 'Evereste' divides the woody area from perennial plants.



In the main sales area, perennials are divided into shade lovers and sun lovers, which are then displayed by colour.

Isabelle and Gabriella's office, with its sunny terrace surrounded by *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker's Low'.

▷ didn't know how to tend it. They were desperate for knowledge." Having decided to make the move, the pair started looking for a location where they could establish their school, and finally found this "monster" of a site, as Gabriella calls it, next to Berlin's Botanic Garden in the suburb of Dahlem.

It turned out to be the perfect location, having once been home to Berlin's highly prestigious Königliche Gärtnerlehranstalt (Royal Gardeners' Training Institute), which dated back to the Prussian garden school founded by Peter Joseph Lenné in 1823.

When in 1903, the school relocated from Potsdam to Berlin a series of historic glasshouses were intalled alongside a young *Pinus strobus*. Today that same *Pinus strobus* towers above those glasshouses and the school's original lecture buildings – all of which are still in use. In fact one of the few things Gabriella and Isabelle have changed is the school's name, altering it slightly to Königliche Gartenakademie (Royal Garden Academy), to capitalise on the school's high reputation. "The education there was the best you could get, comparable to that at Kew," says Gabriella, "and we want to maintain this."

Gabriella and Isabelle may want to uphold high standards for the school, but the range of courses they offer – covering everything from growing herbs for the kitchen and planting a window box, to designing a garden – are both accessible and affordable, with prices starting at as little as €8 for an evening lecture. The school now attracts students from all over Germany, but many more come to visit the plant nursery.

Isabelle, the plantswoman of the pair, is eager to introduce customers to new plants among more familiar fare. "A third of the plants we sell are easily recognised, such as echinaceas," she says. Another third are exciting new plants, and the rest are good, reliable plants she feels deserve to be better known, such as *Montia sibirica*, a little woodland plant, or *Kalimeris incisa* 'Madiva', a disease-free aster relative. Isabelle is proud of the fact that the nursery is introducing more novelties on to the market than is often the case in the UK. "There is a much greater demand here," she says. Another big difference Isabelle has found is that fewer people in Berlin have their own garden, so there's a greater demand for balcony plants.

Alongside the school and nursery, Isabelle and Gabriella also manage the café and several shops in their glasshouses, as well as their garden design service. This is no small endeavour, but the pair's love of plants and gardening is evident in every detail, from the flowers in the nursery to the decoration in the café. It's what distinguishes the Königliche Gartenakademie and makes it so special. □

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Königliche Gartenakademie, Altensteinstraße 15a, 14195 Berlin, Germany.
Tel +49 (0)30 8322 0900.
Website koenigliche-gartenakademie.de

8 of Gabriella and Isabelle's plant choices

1 *Stewartia pseudocamellia*
Germans love camellias, however, they are not hardy in this part of the country and *Stewartia* is a good alternative. Gabriella and Isabelle love its flowers and its great shape. It ages beautifully with a distinctive bark and has stunning autumn colour. 10m. AGM[*]. RHS H5, USDA 5a-8b[†].

2 *Nepeta kubanica*
This is a well-behaved catmint that does not wander or self-seed, and has a great flower. In winter, the seedheads provide structure in a border.
1.2m. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

3 *Euphorbia seguieriana*
We've only recently discovered this hardy and incredibly long-flowering plant. It looks good in the front of a border with its needle-like foliage in chartreuse green. 50cm. USDA 6a-11b.

4 *Eupatorium rugosum* 'Chocolate'
This is a fantastic foliage plant. At the end of September it flowers with small, pure-white flowers, which go well with the dark foliage. 1.2m. USDA 5a-9b.

5 *Rosa* Harlow Carr (= 'Aushouse')
One of Gabriella and Isabelle's favourite roses, it has the most fantastic perfume and rich flowers and is a very healthy plant. In 2015, lots of roses had problems with leaf curl, but not this one. But beware, it is extremely prickly.
1m. RHS H6, USDA 5a-10b.

6 *Rosa* 'Guirlande d'Amour
A Belgian rambling rose, which, unlike most ramblers, is repeat flowering and doesn't grow too large. It doesn't have much scent, though. 4m. USDA 6a-9b.

7 *Boehmeria platanifolia*
An impressive, shade-loving perennial with dramatic foliage for late summer interest. The flowers are subtle little tassels. 1.2m. USDA 4a-10b.

8 *Stipa barbata*
A very tactile, feathery grass with the most amazing seedsheads. It makes Isabelle think of the historic Karl Foerster garden in Potsdam-Bornim, where she first encountered it. It needs a dry, sunny position in well-drained soil.
90cm. USDA 6a.

---

[*] Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. [†] Hardiness ratings given where available.

1

2

3

4

Gabriella (left) and Isabelle.

5

6

7

8

8 ELKE BORKOWSKI / GAP PHOTOS

titan

★2015 WINNER★
25 BRITISH TRAVEL AWARDS
15 GOLD ★ 8 SILVER
2 BRONZE

Award-winning escorted holidays in our best ever

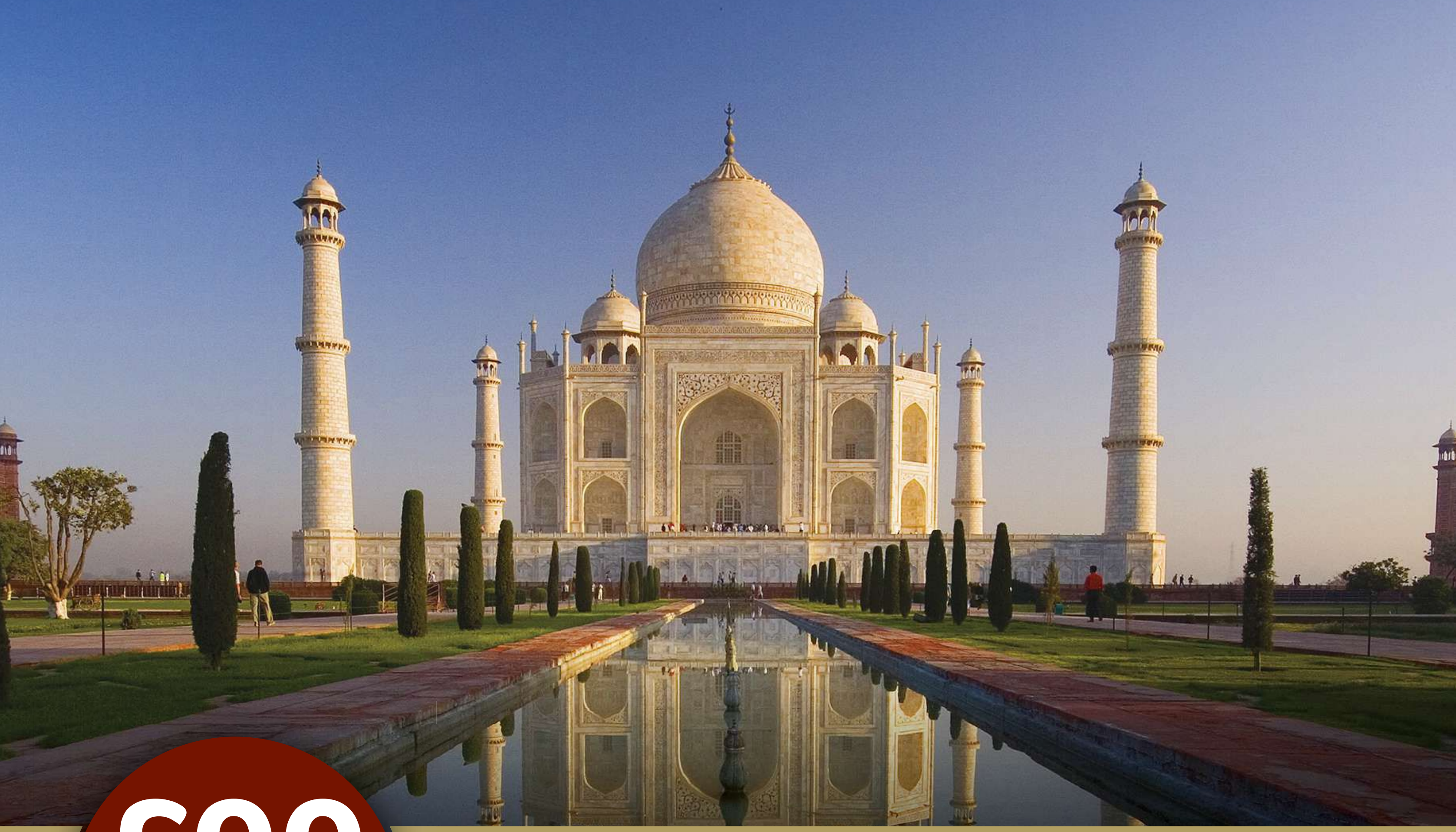
EARLY BOOKING BONANZA

TRAVEL ADVENTURES FROM JUST £799pp

23 BRAND NEW HOLIDAYS FOR 2017

SPECIAL OFFERS FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS

VIP DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSFERS INCLUDED†



£99 DEPOSIT
Book by 30 June 2016

SAVE UP TO £600 PER PERSON
Maximum discounts when you book early

Call today for your **FREE** brochure on **0800 988 5816** quoting **GI1 7FE** or visit **titantravel.co.uk**

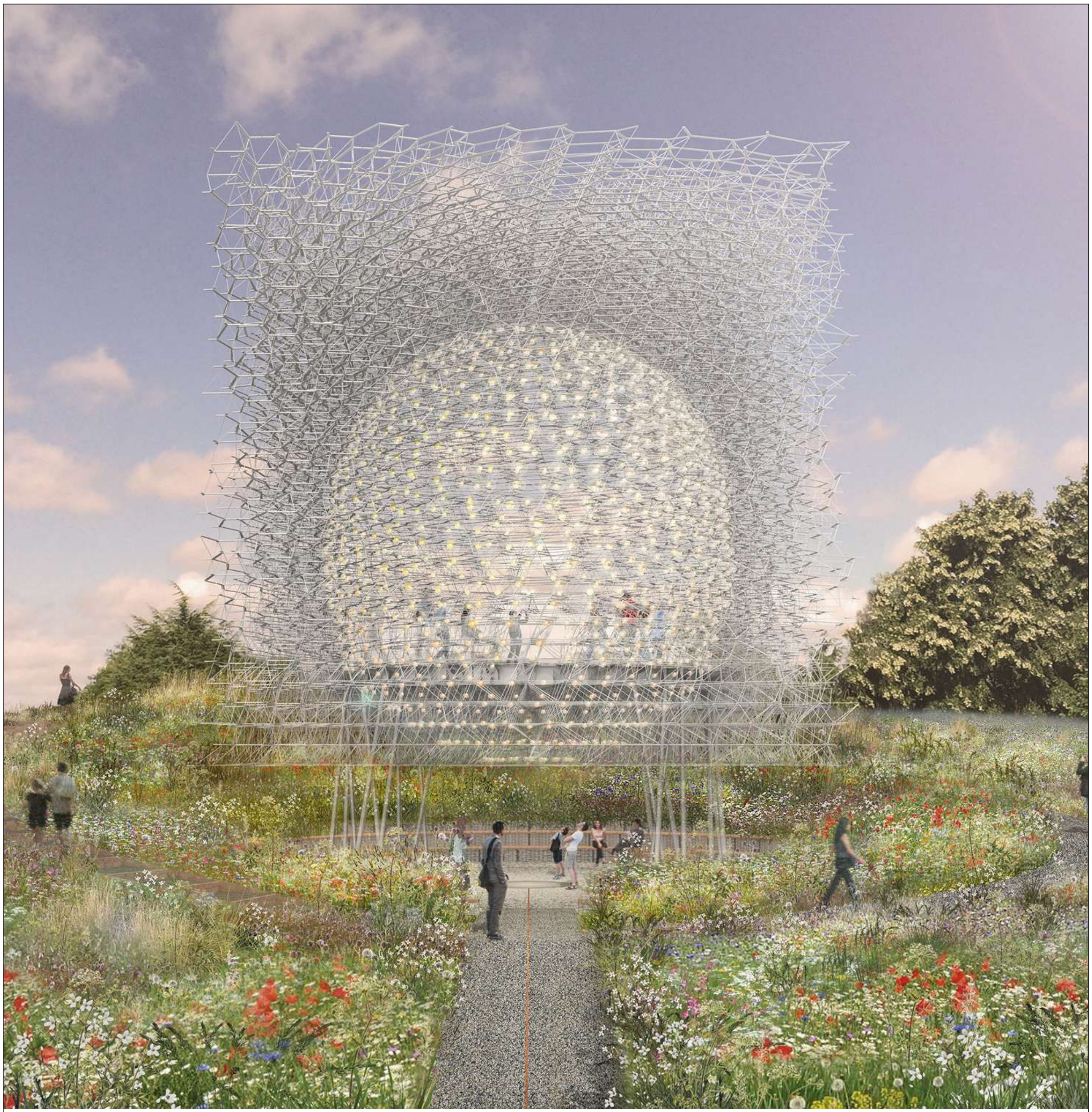
†VIP Service not available on Scottish Isles or Sark.
Prices subject to availability at time of booking. Calls free from BT landlines, mobiles may vary.

ABTA
ABTA No.Y174X
0308 ATOL PROTECTED

design

Design update, ideas and sourcebook

UPDATE COMPILED BY ANNIE GATTI



INSTALLATION

Natural hive

The Hive, an award-winning installation by Wolfgang Buttress, which was the centrepiece of the UK Pavilion at Milan Expo 2015, has a new temporary home at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The 17m-high, lattice-work structure that suggests a swarm of bees leaving a hive will be sited among meadow planting and form the focus of a programme of bee-related events. From 18 June, **kew.org**

AGA Cookshop

Introducing a fabulous new garden range exclusive to AGA Cookshop.

AGApanthus Garden Range

The **NEW AGApanthus collection** brings the outdoors in this season with its stylish range of garden products. Printed on a fine weave 100% cotton panama cloth to reveal the delicate detail in the lovely watercolour design, created for AGA Cookshop by Norfolk artist Pat Tinsley. This exclusive range includes a half leather apron, a beautiful pair of soft leather garden gloves and a stylish and practical garden kneeler.

Available in selected stores and online.

10% off Special Offer* **for Gardens Illustrated readers.**
Present this advert in-store or quote "GARDEN10" to claim.

Quote "GARDEN10" when purchasing

Find your local AGA shop by calling 0800 804 6296 or go to agacookshop.co.uk

*T&Cs apply. 10% off valid for one transaction only. One discount per customer. Offer closes 30th June 2016. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer or promotion. No cash alternative. AGA Cookshop reserve the right to withdraw this offer at any time without prior notice. This offer is not transferable. Only valid in selected AGA Shops, please call first before redeeming your offer in-store.

HEVER CASTLE
& GARDENS
CHILDHOOD HOME OF ANNE BOLEYN

HEVER IN BLOOM
JUNE 27 – JULY 3

Free Garden Tours and Floral Displays.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
hevercastle.co.uk/whatson
Or call – 01732 865224

British made ironwork

door canopies

steel planters

window boxes

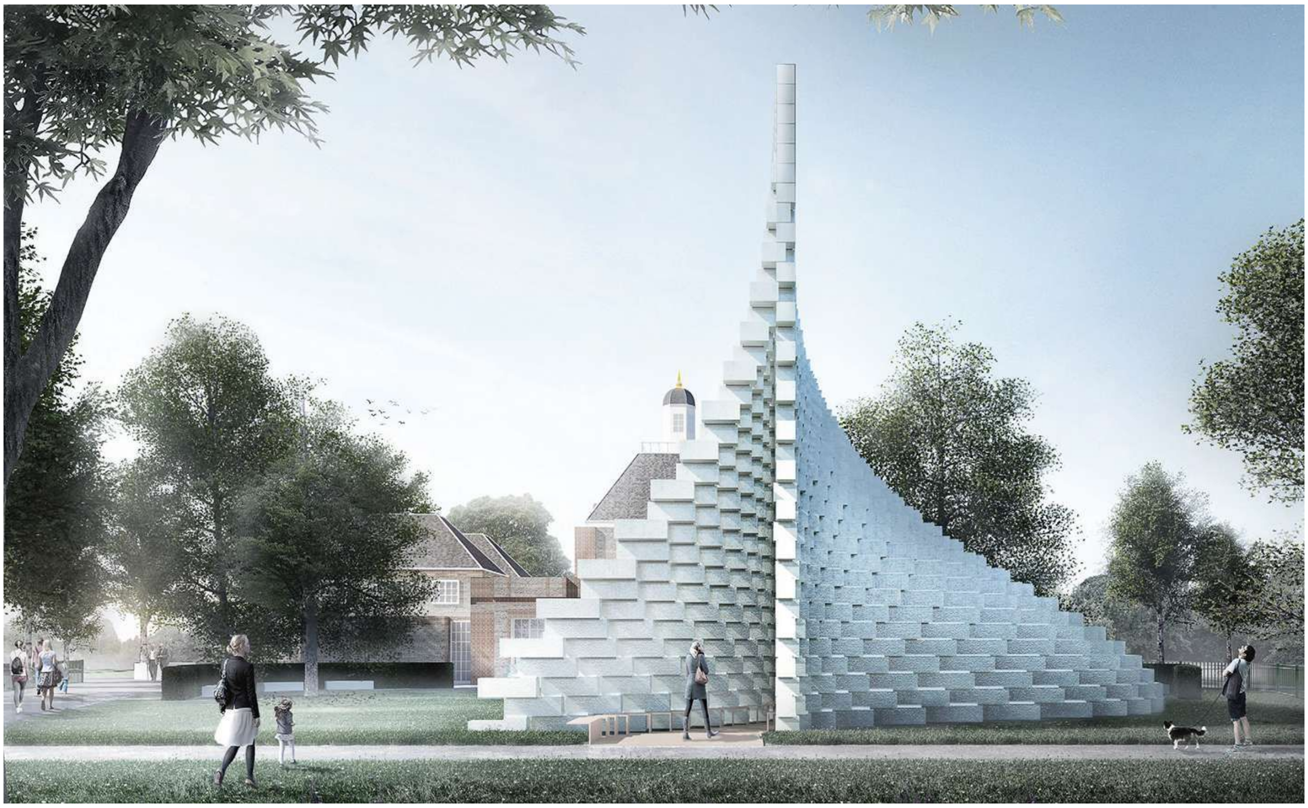
catalogue available
01225 851577
www.garden-requisites.co.uk

GARDEN REQUISITES

EXHIBITION

Soaring walls

Opening on 10 June, this summer's Serpentine Pavilion is a soaring, pointed structure made of interlocking fibreglass bricks. Designed by Danish architects Bjarke Ingels Group, the walls form a cavern-like interior that by night will host the gallery's Park Nights performances. This year it is joined by four contemporary summer houses, one by Berlin-based studio Barkow Leibinger, the other three by architects Kunlé Adeyemi, Yona Friedman and Asif Khan. **serpentinegalleries.org**



FESTIVAL

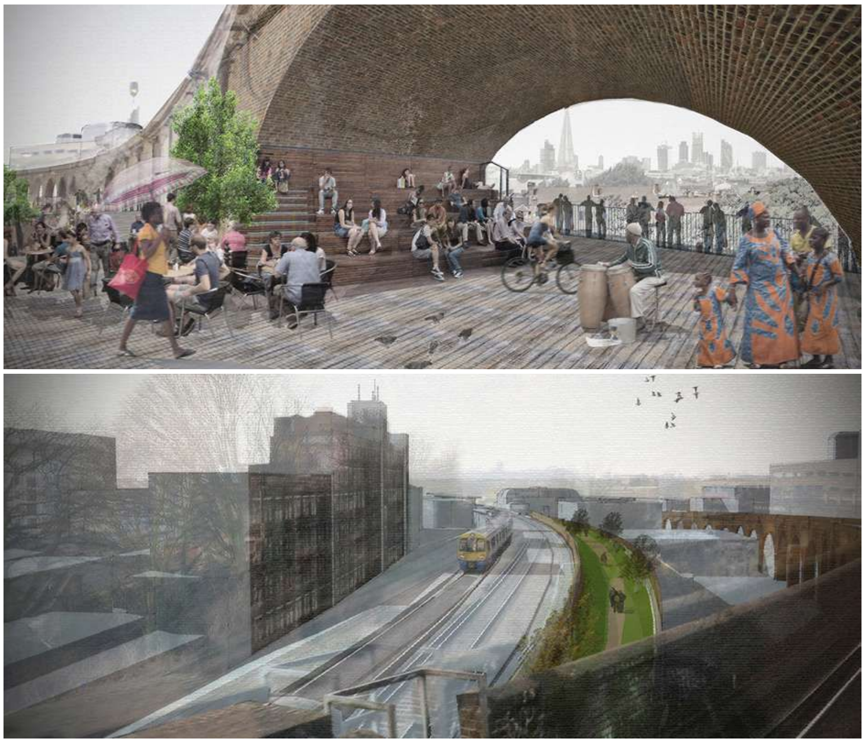
Art in the wild

Chaumont Cairn, an egg-shaped, stone sculpture by British landscape artist Andy Goldsworthy, is one of several major new artworks that will be on display at the International Garden Festival at Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire until November. The art season, now in its eighth year, runs in conjunction with the French garden festival and has attracted a major line-up of international artists this year, including Giuseppe Penone, Cai Guo-Qiang and Pauline Bazignan. **domaine-chaumont.fr/en**

COVER UP

Brighten up a tired-looking terrace, decking area or balcony with one of these reversible outdoor rugs from American designer Fab Hab. Available in a range of bold geometric patterns and colours, they have strong eco credentials too as they're made from recycled plastic straws. Prices start from £49.95, cuckooland.com

ANDY GOLDSWORTHY, *CHAUMONT CAIRN*, 2016, CHAUMONT-SUR-LOIRE, FRANCE © ANDY GOLDSWORTHY. PHOTO CREDIT: ERIC SANDER



COMMUNITY PARK

Peckham high

Peckham Coal Line, a proposed new community-led linear park that uses 1km of raised coal sidings to provide green space above this heavily built-up part of south London, has secured sufficient funds through crowd funding to appoint a design and feasibility study. The project led by architectural practice Adams & Sutherland will link the neighbourhood's existing green spaces. **peckhamcoalline.strikingly.com**

DESIGN CONFERENCE

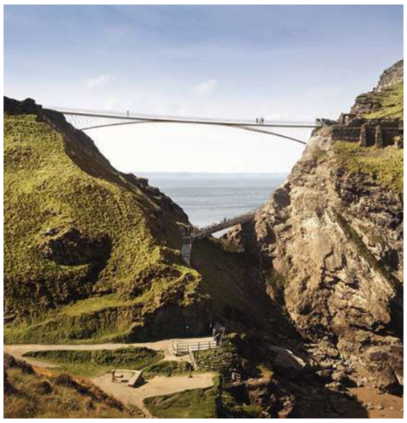
Back to nature

Book now for the inaugural European Landscape Conference where speakers, including James Hitchmough and landscape architect Thomas Doxiadis, will debate our relationship with nature in an increasingly urbanised world. Delegates to the conference in Cirencester will have the chance to tour six remarkable private gardens nearby, including Througham Court (above). 2-5 September, **europeanlandscapeconference.com**

NEW DESIGN

Link to the past

English Heritage has announced the winning design for a new footbridge to link Tintagel Castle in Cornwall with the nearby headland. Designed by Belgian firm Ney and Partners with London architects Williams Matthews, the cantilevered bridge will span more than 70m and use local slate for its decking and contrasting weathered and non-weathered steel for its other surfaces. **english-heritage.org.uk**



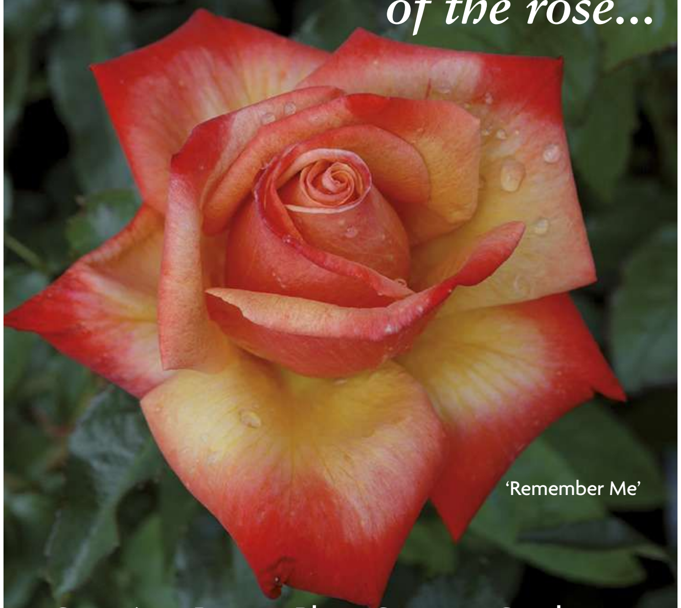
Notebook

- Nick Bailey, head gardener at the **Chelsea Physic Garden**, will discuss his first show garden for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and share tips from his new book on colour in the garden. 2 June, 7pm, chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk
- Join designer Xa Tollemache for a Garden Museum **tour of three Suffolk gardens**, including her own rose-filled gardens at Helmingham Hall and her design at Hill House. 16 June, £125 (Friends of the Museum, £95), gardenmuseum.org.uk
- This year's ***Gardeners' World* Live** launches a new category of show gardens for small spaces. The five designs selected from the Association of Professional Landscapers' Avenue Show Garden Competition include a wildlife-friendly garden for a downsizing couple. 16-19 June, bbcgardenersworldlive.com
- Enjoy a rare opportunity to **visit three inspiring Somerset gardens**, including Stavordale Priory [issue 217, page 34], the Grade I-listed home of Sir Cameron Mackintosh and Michael Le Poer Trench, with gardens partly designed by its previous owner, designer Georgia Langton. 17 June, £85, gardendaysout.com
- James Alexander-Sinclair will talk on **designing with roses** at Borde Hill, Sussex, including a tour of the Elizabethan House, and wine and canapés. 23 June, 2-5pm, £30 (RHS members, £25), bordehill.co.uk
- Garden designer Ann-Marie Powell has been appointed creative director for the inaugural **London Flower Show**, a four-day event at Osterley House and Park, Middlesex, in September. The show will include show gardens, floral displays, music and art installations. 8-11 September, londonflowershow.co.uk

MRC/NEY & PARTNERS AND EMILY WHITFIELD-WICKS

Peter Beales®

Rediscover the romance of the rose…



Container Roses Plant Centre Catalogue
Please quote G2016 when placing an order or requesting a catalogue
www.classicroses.co.uk 01953 454707

twenty twenty
contemporary art and craft

CELIA SMITH
WIRE BIRD KIT
ROBIN

Includes tools, wire & illustrated instructions by Celia Smith

Approx completed dimensions
17 x 12 x 7cm

This superb kit is a collaboration between Twenty Twenty Gallery and contemporary artist Celia Smith. It contains all you need to create a stunning wire bird sculpture.

Buy online from **twenty-twenty.co.uk**

TWENTY TWENTY GALLERY 01952 727952

POTS ◆ AND ◆ PITHOI
ESTABLISHED 1985

BY APPOINTMENT TO HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES SUPPLIER OF TERRACOTTA POTS

THE WORLD'S MOST EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION OF CRETAN TERRACOTTA POTS

RUGS · ANTIQUES · WATER FEATURES
CERAMICS · GARDEN FURNITURE

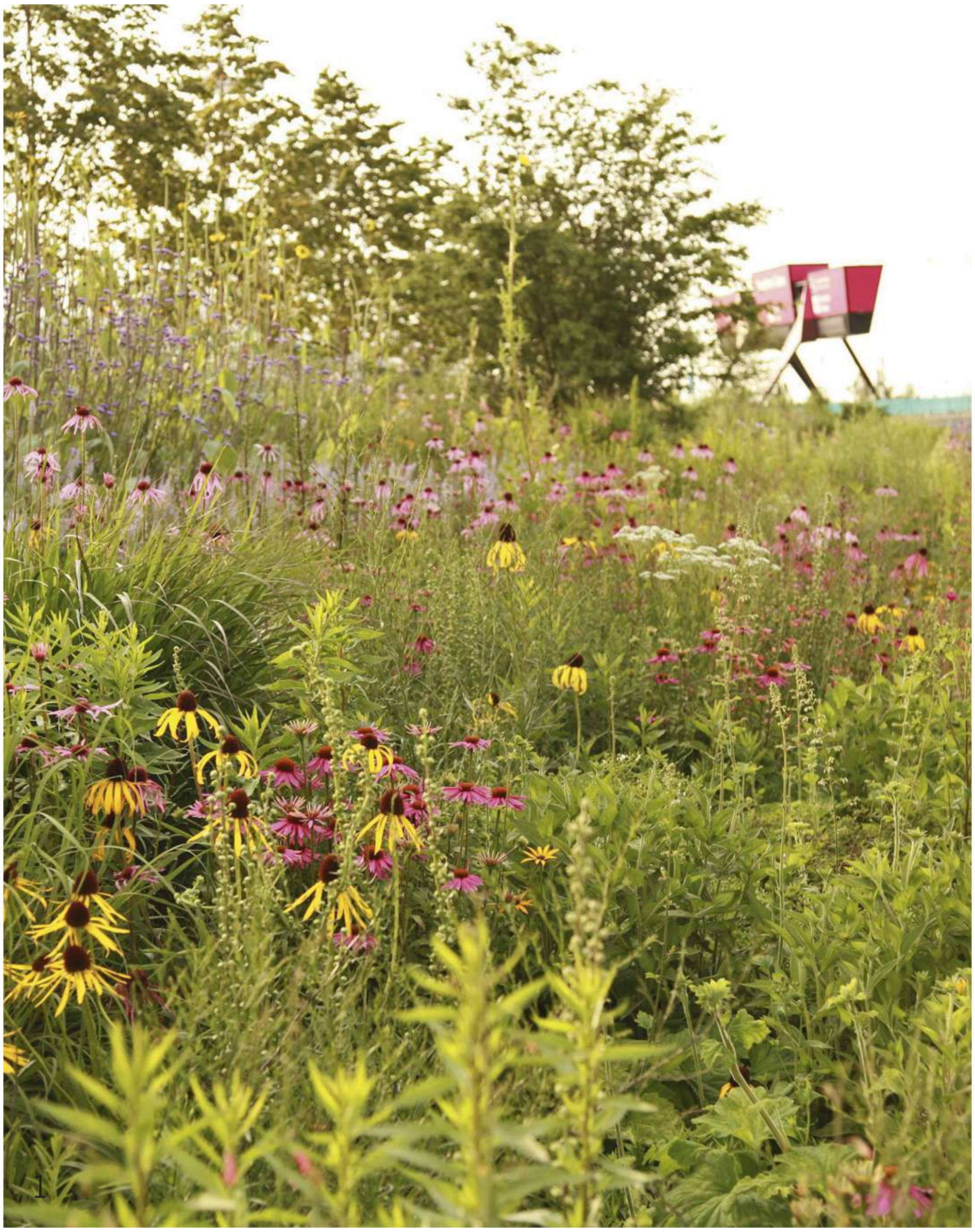
MEDITERRANEAN CAFÉ OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

The Barns, East Street, Turners Hill,
West Sussex, RH10 4QA

01342 714793 potsandpithoi.com

1 First sight

I used photo collages and drawings to compose the designs for the Olympic gardens at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, in east London. These mood boards were invaluable in communicating our vision for communities of plants sourced from across the world and never before grown together in the UK on such a scale. This view is of the North American garden (co-designed with James Hitchmough) where prairie plants *Echinacea pallida* and *Echinacea paradoxa* dominate in early July.



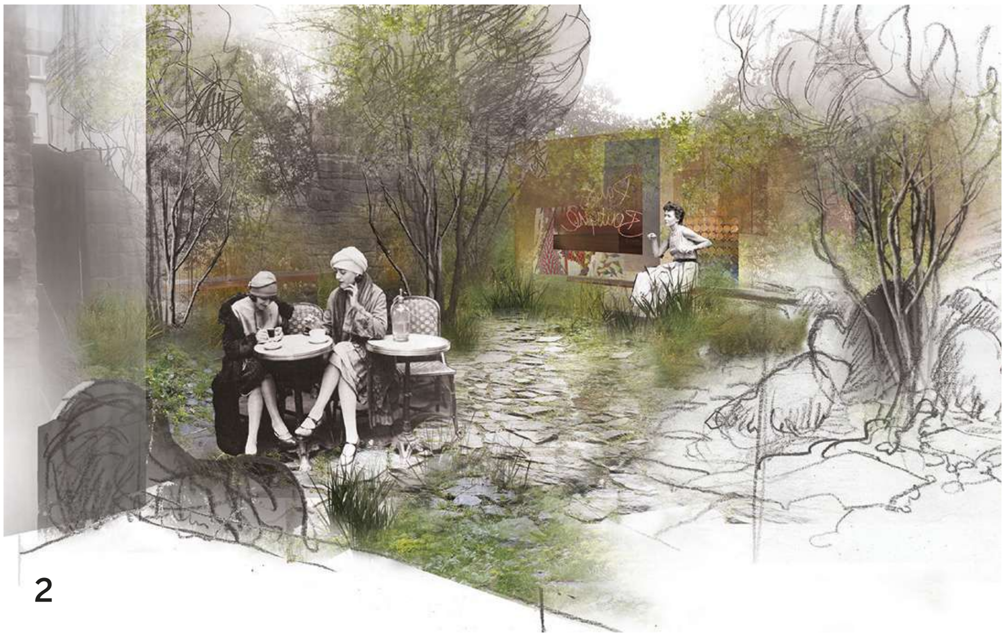
SARAH PRICE

Sarah Price is one of the UK's most sought-after garden designers who won worldwide recognition for her designs for the 2012 Olympic Park.

The gardener's gaze

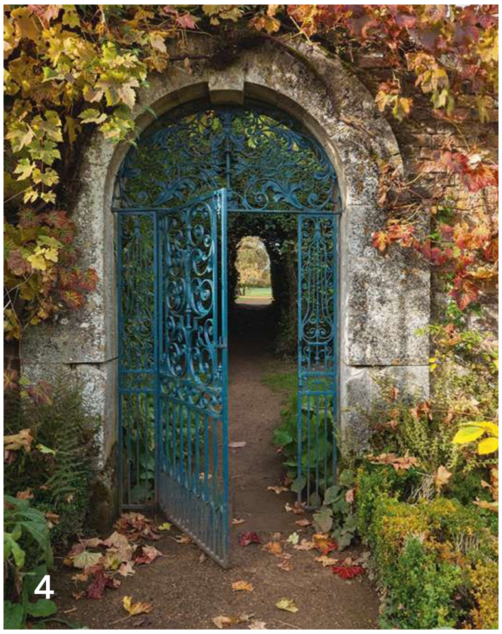
In the last of her design series, Sarah Price encourages us to look carefully at the world around us and store ideas away for our future designs

WORDS SARAH PRICE



2

3



4

SARAH PRICE; STUDIO WEAVE; ANDREW BASKOTT / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

2 Drawing the eye

A collage of carefully selected images (photographs and drawings), such as this sketch I made for a new garden at the Chapel café in Abergavenny, can more easily capture the spirit of the design and be a more powerful way of communicating a design's atmosphere than a computer-generated 3D walkthrough.

3 Long view

Creative exchanges across the visual arts often spark innovation. Architectural practice Studio Weave's designs are diverse, playful and open minded. Here, dunes form a dynamic backdrop to the sculptural twists and flashes of colour of their designs for *The Longest Bench* at Littlehampton, West Sussex.

4 Associations

Even the most illustrious locations have inspiration for observant, down-to-earth gardeners. The autumnal shades of this vine, contrast with the peacock blue of the wrought-iron gate at Rousham House, Oxfordshire. This complementary colour association would work just as well in an everyday setting.

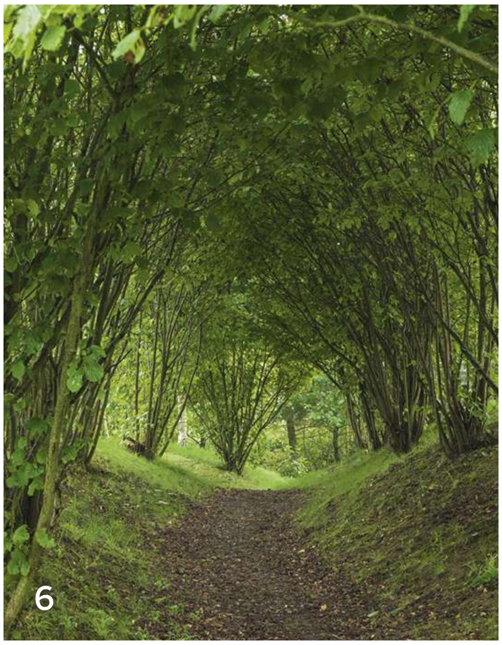
In this series I've deliberately chosen not to replicate a typical garden design course that covers the essential aspects of design in a logical progression. Instead I've ranged across a diverse set of subjects, choosing some because they're important to my own work, such as pattern, wild flowers and designing with trees, and others because they're overlooked in more conventional approaches to garden design, such as colour, local crafts and movement.

A thread that runs throughout the series is the habit of looking. But there's a big difference between 'seeing' and 'mindful looking'. Paying full attention from the widest perspective to the smallest detail, then analysing and understanding what you see and storing it away so you can draw on it in the future. Like many people, my first lessons in looking were in art classes at school. My teacher urged me to spend more time actively looking at the unlikely arrangements of fruit, cloth and dried flowers than staring at my evolving picture on my page. This stern but excellent advice has remained with me. Just as a still life elevates everyday items into objects of fascination, bringing cut flowers from your garden into your home makes you look in detail because you're seeing them in a different setting. It can even, spark new ideas for unusual planting combinations.

A completely different method of 'active' looking is through the lens of a camera. The viewfinder detaches us and frames our surroundings like a picture. It reduces three dimensions to two. Printing a garden scene in black and white also helps you to look analytically. Without the distraction of colour you can view the garden as an arrangement of shapes that needs organising into a successful composition rather than as a collection of plants. But don't be fooled into thinking that taking photos is a substitute for ▷

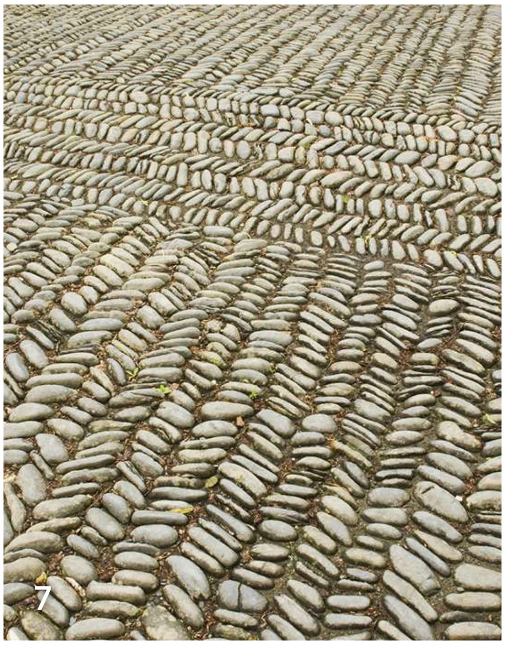
5 Field of vision

Subdued views can be just as inspiring as those that shout attention. The plants growing here at North Uist, in the Outer Hebrides, are not ones you'd necessarily want to grow in your garden even if you did have the same wet, marginal conditions. The subtle range of colours, pattern and composition, however, could be recreated using plants with similar visual qualities, such as grasses.



6 Timeline

This well-worn footpath within a hazel coppice suggests the passing of time. It's a detail that could easily pass unnoticed yet this subtle change in topography increases the sense of intimacy within the plantings.



7 Seeing patterns

Looking attentively at our everyday surroundings will reward us with a wealth of design ideas. These herringbone cobbles in the estate yard at Llanerchaeron, Ceredigion, are still a striking sight 200 years after they were laid. Patterns of historic paving designs can be originally adapted using contemporary paving materials such as narrow Dutch bricks, sawn stone or concrete pavers.

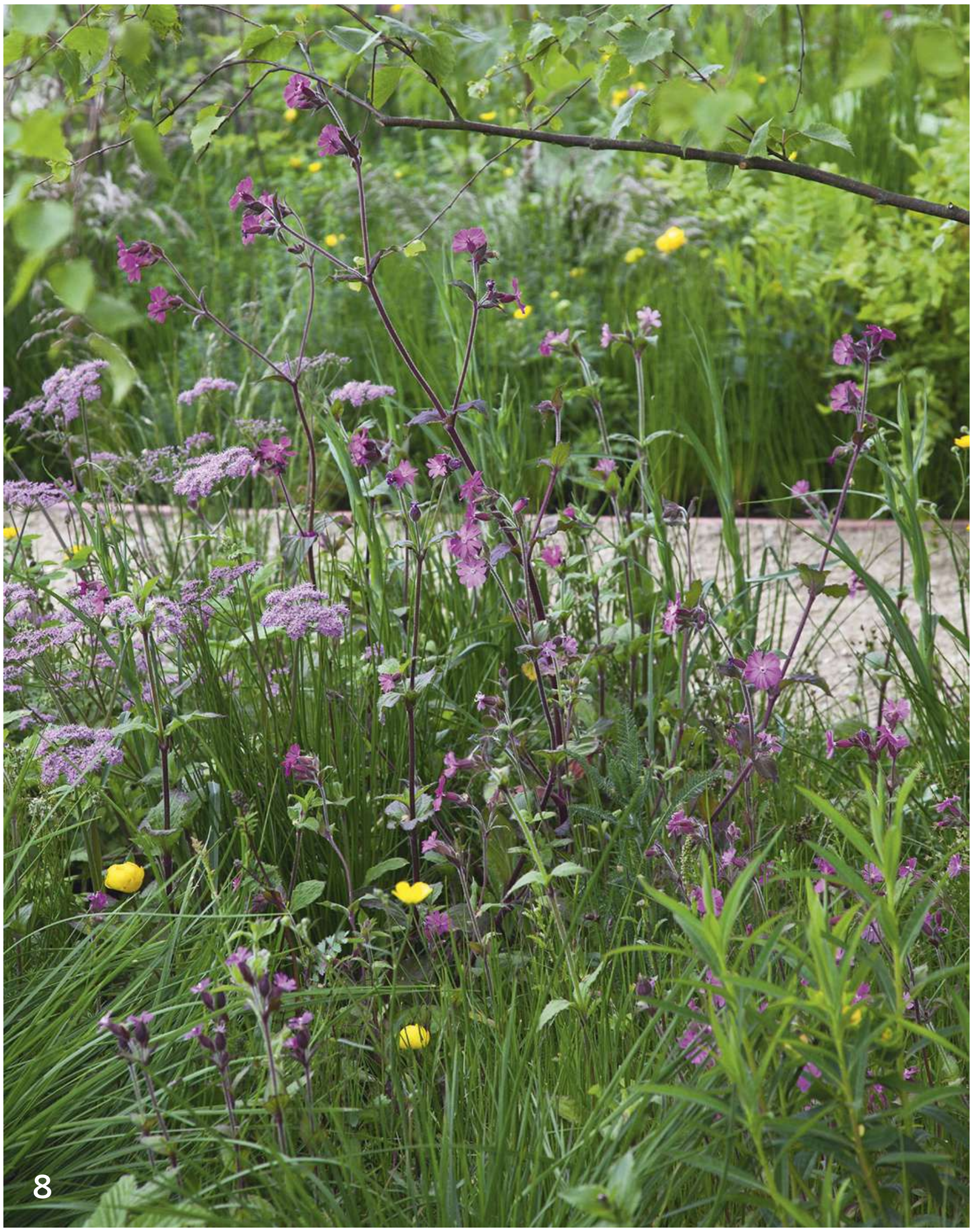
JONATHAN BUCKLEY; NICOLA STOCKEN / GAP PHOTOS; PAUL HARRIS / NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES

▷ looking with your bare eyes. I find the best way to remember something is to draw it. It takes more effort than pressing the shutter but even a rough squiggle helps commit something to memory.

The natural world is an inexhaustible source of inspiration. My aim in design is to simultaneously exaggerate and simplify the most attractive and exciting moments in nature. Flower-rich meadows full of ox-eye daisies and *Deschampsia* and *Molinia* grasses were the blueprint for my collaboration with Nigel Dunnett on the European gardens at the Olympic Park. Different *Molinia* cultivars extended visual variations, from the low and stiff *Molinia caerulea* 'Moorhexe' to the towering soft arcs of *Molinia caerulea* subsp. *arundinacea* 'Transparent', which were then overlaid with layers of colour.

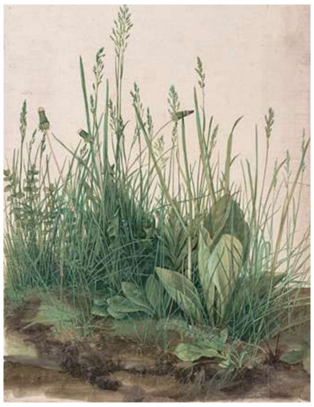
Looking at different ways that plants colonise the ground influences my plant placements. Certain natural patterns are easier to see than others. Tussocks of dark rushes, *Juncus effusus* are pronounced in over-grazed grasslands, while in the tangle of a mature forest, the distribution of mature oak and beech trees are harder to discern. I plant in generous quantities to replicate the impressive sight of plants growing en masse. I mingle my species, planting satellite groups with outlying singletons. Nature abhors bare soil so I plant densely to cover the ground and squeeze out opportunist weeds. I introduce plants with strong architectural forms, such as grasses or clear stem shrubs or trees to create more ordered and stylised pictures than truly wild plantings.

Boundaries between the visual arts, fashion, architecture and interiors have become increasingly fluid, with many artists moving between different forms of creative expression. Grayson Perry made his name as a potter, but he has also designed staggeringly



8

ROB WHITWORTH / GAP PHOTOS; *THE GREAT PIECE OF TURF* BY ALBRECHT DÜRER 1503, ©ALBERTINA, VIENNA



8 Looking to art

Inspiration stems from many visual sources: Albrecht Dürer's detailed renderings of the natural world, inspired the intricate plantings of my 2012 Chelsea garden for *The Telegraph*. Like in his famous watercolour *The Great Piece of Turf* (above), painted in 1503, native grasses, such as *Melica*, *Agrostis* and *Deschampsia* jostle with commonplace 'weeds', such as meadow buttercup and herb robert.

Further reading

Planting in a Post-Wild World by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West (Timber Press, 2015). A book that captures the excitement of looking to nature for planting inspiration.

beautiful tapestries, a front cloth for the English National Ballet and has recently designed and built *A House for Essex*. Looking at other art forms is not simply about finding ideas to lift, it's about enriching visual sensibility with as many sources as possible. Imagination is something mysterious and hard to pin down. If you're suffering designer's 'creative block' you might be more likely to find that elusive spark of inspiration from a night of contemporary dance than another garden visit.

The only thing worse than a lack of ideas is too many. I'll usually have to refine my selection of ideas. One large moodboard will evolve into several different boards for different areas of the design. There will always be common visual themes that unite each board. For instance, key linking plants that will grow in both sun and shade, or a structural plant or paving material that will be used throughout. In this way the design will have unity. I'm not suggesting that designing a garden is as straight forward as arranging images on a board but it's a good place to start. For capturing the feel and atmosphere of a garden, a collage of carefully selected photos and drawings can be a more powerful tool than a computer-generated 3D walkthrough.

The internet age is one of image saturation. It's an incredible resource, but it can also feel overwhelming. It can seem like everything's been done before and to some extent that's true. However, what makes something fresh and original is how the elements are applied and combined in a particular place. That's the great advantage of a garden compared to the sterile 'white cube' of a gallery that could be in London, San Francisco or Tokyo. It's exciting but it obliges garden designers to look closely and carefully not just at their own work but also at the wider setting in which it exists. □

ITALIAN GARDEN HOLIDAYS

Small group tours with guided visits of Italian gardens

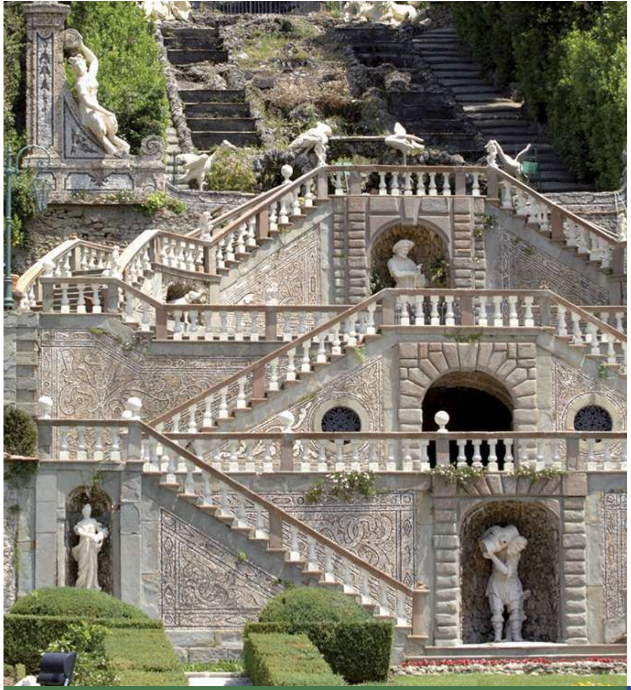
ENVIRONS OF ROME
Visits to: Giardino di Ninfa, Villa d'Este, Castello Ruspoli, Bomarzo, Villa Lante
2016: 8 June and 7 Sep
From £2190 per person

TUSCANY
Visits to: Poggio Torselli, Villa Geggiano, Villa Grabau, Villa Oliva, Parco di Villa Reale
2016: 19 June and 4 Sep
From £2250 per person

LAKES COMO AND MAGGIORE
Visits to: Villa Babbianello, Villa Carlotta, Villa Monastero, Isola Bella, Isola Madre
2016: 5 July and 6 Sep
From £2290 per person

AMALFI COAST, CAPRI AND ISCHIA
Visits to: La Mortella, Caserta, Villa Rufolo
2016: 2 Jun and 15 Sep
From £1990 per person

Please check our website for dates for 2017 tours as they are released. Some departures are booking already for 2017.



- Travel by luxury small coach
- Maximum 14 per tour
- Local guides and guided garden visits included
- Extensions to each tour and can be arranged for individuals
- Stay at 4 and 5 star hotels, two per tour, 3 nights in each
- British Airways flights included

SPEAK TO OUR EXPERTS
01392 441275

THE ART OF INTELLIGENT TRAVEL ORGANISING
FOUNDED 1989

AITO IATA ABTOT ABTA The Travel Association

www.expressionsholidays.co.uk

Expressions

OXENWOOD

EXCEPTIONAL OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Tel: 01264 730 801 www.oxenwood.eu

THE SHORT LIST

Garden ladders

Take a step up with our choice of the best garden ladders

JAPANESE MADE

Niwaki Tripod Ladder (2.4m),
£229, Niwaki,
0345 474 1041, niwaki.com

CLASSIC STYLE

Swingback Step Ladder in primrose (1.17m),
£62, Hulley Heritage,
0114 272 1205, timberstepladders.co.uk

MULTI-PURPOSE

Two-way Combination Ladder (3.23m),
£82, B&Q,
diy.com

FOLD AWAY

Folding Step Ladder by Karl Malmvall (66cm),
£278, Design House Stockholm,
01908 307020, panik-design.com

FIRM BASE

Telesteps Work Platform (88cm),
£299.99, Homebase,
0345 077 8888, homebase.co.uk

RUSTIC APPEAL

Pluck Ladder (2.25m),
€191, De Wiltfang,
+31 (0)346 218 111, dewiltfang.nl

ADJUSTABLE LEGS

Platform Tripod Ladder (2.44m),
£315, Henchman,
03333 444229, henchman.co.uk

EXTENDABLE

Titan Fibreglass Reform Ladder (4.12m),
£158.33, Gardening Delights,
0117 330 2277, gardeningdelights.com

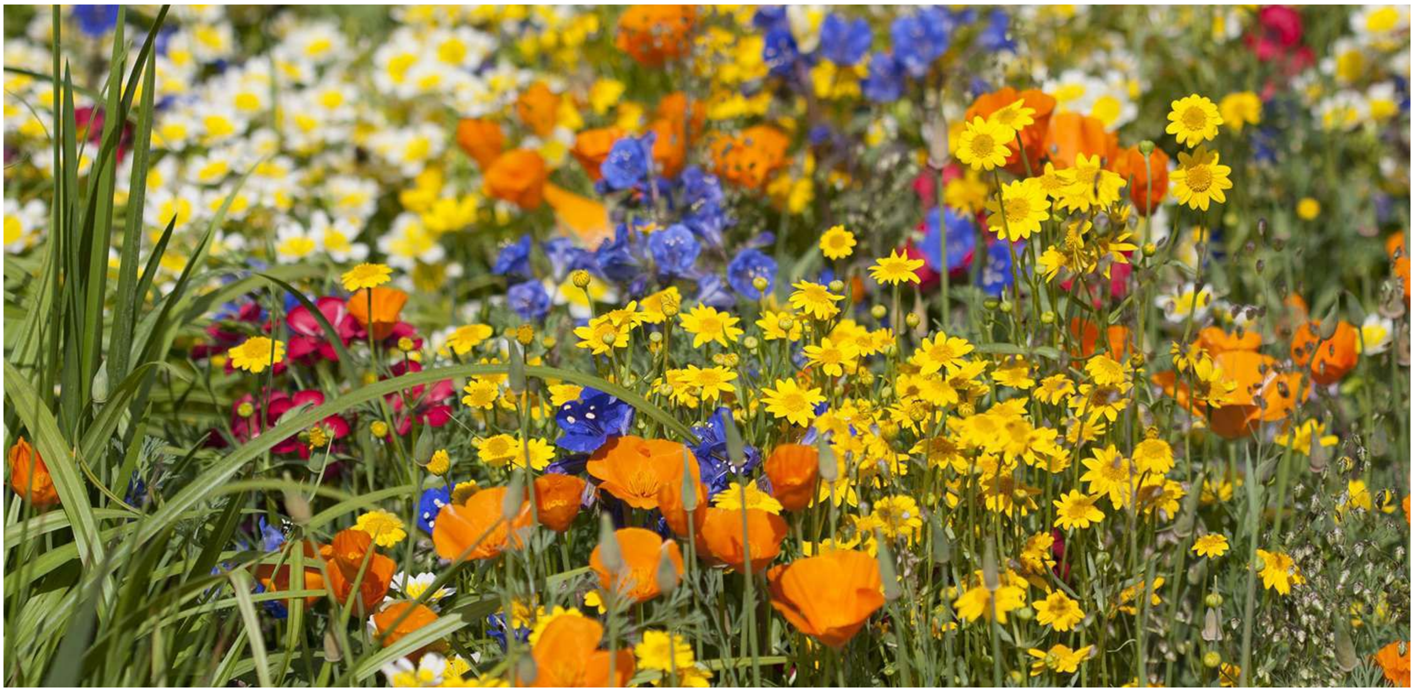
HAND RAIL

Ladder with Platform (1.22m),
£199.99, Spring Chicken,
0800 980 3961, springchicken.co.uk

COMPILED BY ALYS HURN

Chelsea Flower Show 2016

Our guide to some of the fabulous exhibitors at this world-famous event



Haddonstone Ltd

Haddonstone will formally launch the Soane Shakespeare bust (pictured) at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The design is replicated from a copy of Thomas Sheemakers' work at the Soane Museum. Other designs launching at Chelsea include busts of 'Capability' Brown and Inigo Jones. Haddonstone is the UK's leading manufacturer of fine garden ornaments and architectural stonework in traditional, classical and contemporary styles. Designs range from planters, bird baths and statues to balustrades, follies and fountains. ***Stand location: RHW376***

Tel 01604 770711 **Web** haddonstone.com

Ashwood Nurseries

We are a traditional working nursery situated in the West Midlands. We specialise in hepaticas, hydrangeas, salvias, hellebores, lewisias, hardy cyclamen, dwarf conifers, snowdrops, primula auriculas and offer many more choice plants. We feel Ashwood Nurseries is a plantsman's paradise. Our mail order service sends plants, seeds, garden essentials and gifts to UK and EU destinations. Special events throughout the year. Please visit our website for more details. Open daily. Free colour brochure; quote Gardens16. ***Stand location: GPD168***

Tel 01384 401996 **Web** ashwoodnurseries.com

Garden Art Plus

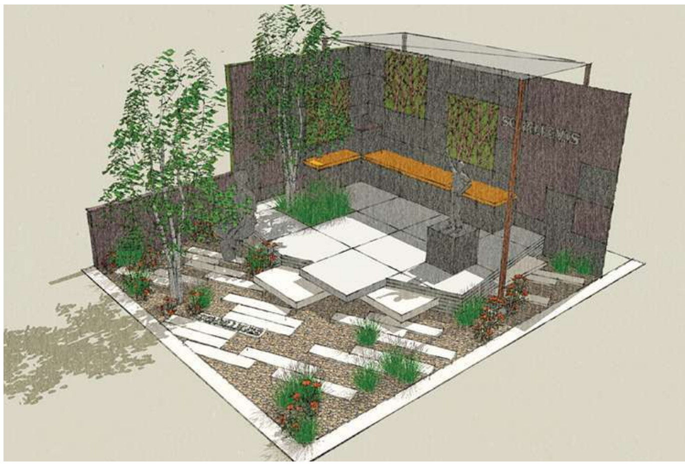
This rare marble carved trough, circa 1760, with inset carved panel and centred carved floral swags is just one of the many rare antique items to be displayed on our stand at RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Garden Art Plus Ltd specialises in sourcing and supplying garden antiques and contemporary garden furniture and structures, including antique garden urns, garden statues, benches, tables, sundials, birdbaths, fountains, stone troughs and a selection of antique staddle stones.
Stand location: WA310, Western Avenue

Tel 01488 686811 **Web** gardenartplus.com

Primrose Hall Nursery

Peonies have long graced gardens in the UK and are among the most indulgent of all flowers. Impervious to the harshest of winters they emerge spring after spring and light up the garden with masses of wonderfully fragrant and beautifully decadent blooms. Introduce these highly desirable perennials to your garden by visiting ***www.primrosehall.co.uk*** and choosing your favourite from our award-winning peonies. ***Stand location: GPD150***

Tel 01525 878924 **Email** enquiries@primrosehall.co.uk



Schellevis

For the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year Schellevis commissioned leading landscape designer Sarah Naybour to create their stand. The layout is split-level, featuring two contrasting outdoor spaces where the versatility, style and character of Schellevis paving and landscaping elements fit perfectly.

The first is an urban landscape inspired by the plans for Battersea Power Station, which feature layers reminiscent of the geology of natural rock together with obtuse angles; the second is a private residential garden.

On the lower level is a loosely planted contemporary gravel garden with a scattering of Schellevis planks leading to giant 1m x 1m cantilever steps set into the edge of the upper terrace.

The atmosphere on the upper level is very different. Minimal and laid out on a grid, it features the new cube seating from Schellevis.

The back wall is clad in smaller Schellevis pavers in a chequer board pattern with rusted steel panels in a twig pattern. Two multi-stem *Betula* trees dominate the stand with under planting of *Carex* and a palette of magenta, pink and orange with bronze undertones.
Stand location: FR324

Contact details

Schellevis UK
16 Wycombe Place,
London SW18 2LT

Tel 07774 923181/020 8874 4056

Web schellevis.co.uk

SN SARAH NAYBOUR
GARDENS.LANDSCAPES.DESIGN.

SCHELLEVIS®
INSPIRATION

GROW LONDON

– 24-26 JUNE '16 –

GROWLONDON.COM

OXFORD PLANTERS

Oxford Planters Ltd are designers and manufacturers of hardwood planters, tables, chairs, benches, garden gates and pergolas. The hardwood products are all individually handmade to order in the company's Oxfordshire workshops and are available in oak, iroko and accoya. The range includes a variety of traditional and contemporary styles, while a bespoke design and build service ensures that Oxford Planters can meet the needs of almost any situation. Clients include private individuals, designers and architects. ***Stand no. G7***

Tel 01608 683022/07765188725 **Web** oxfordplanters.co.uk

LIME AVENUE ANTIQUES

Lime Avenue Antiques offer an eclectic mix of antique and contemporary garden furniture and ornaments to suit every taste and size of garden. Our Armchair Gardener selection encompasses books, paintings and object d'art with a horticultural theme – ideal gifts for the keen gardener. Contact Lesley Gamblin on 07801 445299, email info@limeavenueantiques.co.uk or visit our website; www.limeavenueantiques.co.uk to see our full range of products. ***We look forward to welcoming you on stand B14.***

Tel 07801 445299 **Web** limeavenueantiques.co.uk

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Architectural Heritage is proud to present a carefully curated range made of fine garden ornament to classic designs in traditional, high-quality materials. Exciting new additions to the collection include the Quercus Robur range of garden furniture – hand crafted in English oak to designs inspired by the Cotswold School of Arts & Crafts; alongside an extension to the range of ever-popular copper garden planters available in circular, square and rectangular, in varying sizes. ***Stand no. L5, by the main entrance.***

Tel 01386 584414 **Web** architectural-heritage.co.uk

© Fiona McLeod

THE PLANT SPECIALIST NURSERY

Established in 2002 the nursery and its display gardens are located in the village of Great Missenden in the Chilterns and are dedicated to growing a wide range of new and unusual herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses, which also make reliable garden plants.

At no other time has gardening with perennials been more exciting. The sheer range of colour and variety allows endless combinations and styles and they are particularly relevant at a time when the sustainability and sensitivity to our environment is of paramount importance.

Plant breeders from around the world continue to introduce new forms of old favourites, which often have longer flowering periods, more vigour and a wider range of colour. Many of the new plants that catch our attention are constantly added to our stock and trial beds with the most successful being offered for sale.

At the moment we do not offer a mail order service but enjoy welcoming customers here at the nursery and we hope they can find time to visit us again and again during the seasons ahead. ***Stand no. A8***

Contact details

Whitefield Lane,
Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire,
HP16 0BH

Tel 01494 866650

Web theplantspecialist.co.uk

Email enquire@theplantspecialist.co.uk

the plant specialist

THE BOMA GARDEN CENTRE

The BOMA Garden Centre is based in the heart of Kentish Town and is easily accessible from north and central London. We are a family run business, passionate about gardening and sharing our inspiration and insights with other keen gardeners. Our distinctiveness lies in our people: our staff are committed, friendly and knowledgeable horticulturists who provide an exceptional service. ***Stand no. G10***

We offer:

- A garden centre with a wide selection of quality plants.
- Garden services tailor-made to suit individual needs and gardens.
- Garden make-overs to transform your garden into something exceptional.
- Garden consultations and personal shoppers, providing you with a dedicated horticulturist to ensure you choose the best plants for your garden.
- Free parking.

Contact details

51-53 Islip Street,
Kentish Town,
NW5 2DL

Tel 0207 284 4999

Web bomagardencentre.co.uk

THE BOMA
GARDEN CENTRE
GARDEN SERVICES

Summer Inspiration

This summer, get out and enjoy your garden in style. From beautiful craftsmanship to handmade pots, practical accessories and more, we can help to make your garden really special this summer

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

New additions to the collection include the Quercus Robur garden furniture range – hand-crafted in English oak and inspired by the Cotswold School of Arts & Crafts – along with an extension to our range of the ever-popular copper garden planters. Contact us to request a copy of the latest catalogue.

Tel **01386 584414**

Web **architectural-heritage.co.uk**

NATURES HAMPERS

Natures Hampers is a family owned business in Sussex offering cruelty-free, beautifully packaged hampers. The hampers' award-winning contents are carefully chosen, keeping in mind the company's natural ethos. The range includes Gardener's Hampers, with items selected to complement the English gardener's life.

Tel **01435 810099**

Web **natureshampers.com**

BACKDOORSHOES

They are comfortable, waterproof, durable and have removable, washable insoles. Easy to slip on and off, saving your socks and feet from getting wet and without muddy laces to fiddle about with – perfect for nipping outside or enjoying a whole day in the garden. Many different designs available for men, ladies or children.

Tel **01202 232357**

Web **backdoorshoes.co.uk**

KADAI FIREBOWLS

The authentic Indian Fire Bowl and BBQ in one – designed in England, handmade in India using thick steel to form a robust and versatile BBQ/Fire Bowl. Including high and low gothic stands, grills, tongs and brush from £214. See us at Chelsea Flower Show – stand RHW355, join us and fall in love with outdoor living.

Tel **01694 771800**

Web **kadai.com**

PLANT SUPPORTS UK

Plant Supports (UK) Ltd is extremely proud to supply totally British, robust, high-quality plant supports, not only for the herbaceous and shrub borders but also for the vegetable garden. Keeping the garden pristine has never been so easy thanks to this great range of supports.

Tel **01584 781578**

Web **plantsupports.co.uk**

BAKSAVER BARROW

Take the strain out of moving heavy loads in the garden. Ergonomically designed, the Baksaver has three wheels to take the weight that normally puts pressure on the arms and shoulders, and it won't tip over like an ordinary barrow. To empty, just release the foot operated catch and the pan tips forward to deposit the contents. RRP £139.

Tel **01932 878570**

Web **organiccatalogue.com**

CARPET BAGS

These individually hand-crafted treasures are made in the heart of East Anglia using velvety soft, yet tough, viscose and cotton rugs. With a range of styles from small shoulder bags and handbags to big Gladstone bags, we have something for everyone. Quote GI2 to receive your complimentary tapestry bag on orders over £100.

Tel **01379 898021**

Web **carpetbags.co.uk**

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

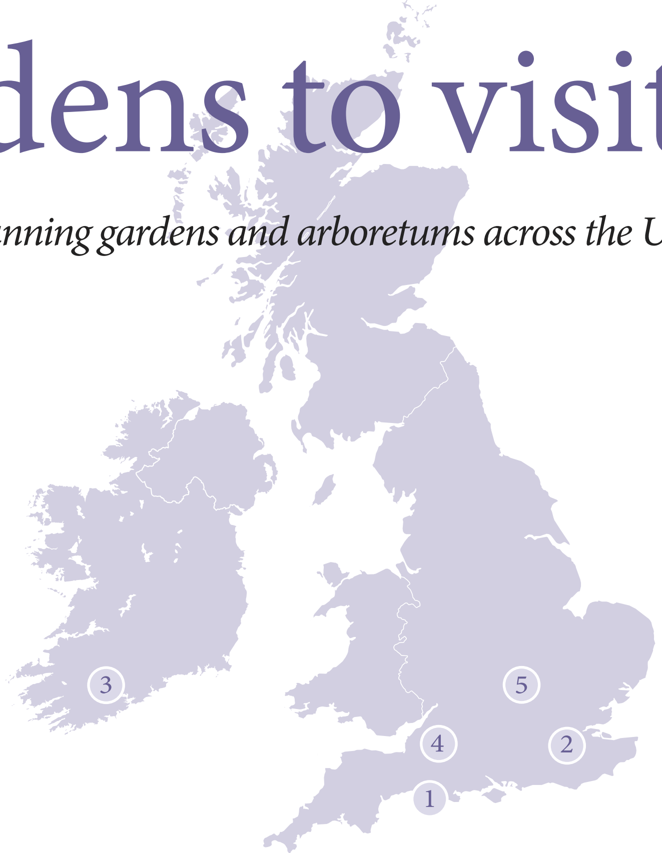
Summer gardens to visit

This summer, make time to visit this collection of stunning gardens and arboretums across the UK

1 ABBOTSBURY SUBTROPICAL GARDENS

A recent winner of the HHA/Christie's Garden of the Year Award and described by Alan Titchmarsh as 'one of the finest gardens I have ever visited'. Established in 1765 by the 1st Countess of Ilchester as a kitchen garden for her nearby castle. It has developed since then into a magnificent 30-acre tropical paradise with many exotic features including a Burma rope bridge.

Address **Bullers Way,**
Abbotsbury, Dorset DT3 4LA
Tel **01305 871387**
Web **abbotsburygardens.co.uk**

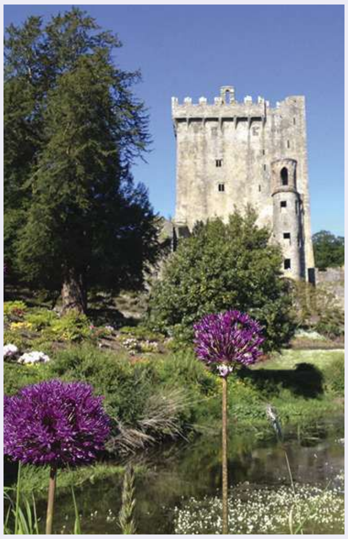


2 HEVER CASTLE

Experience Hever Castle at the height of its summer beauty, with one of the finest displays of roses and summer blooms in the Garden of England. Hever in Boom (27 June -3 July) showcases the glorious gardens with free guided tours led by the gardening team and floral displays in the castle.

Address **Hever, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7NG**
Tel **01732 865224** Web **hevercastle.co.uk**

3 BLARNEY CASTLE



Step into summer at Blarney Castle and Gardens. The 60 acres of gardens are a joy to explore. Visit the prehistoric Fern Garden, our deadly Poison Garden, and our magical Rock Close. Make a wish on the famous wishing steps while the waterfall cascades alongside. Stroll by the lake, riverside and woodlands or in the dazzling arboretums and herbaceous borders in all their summer splendour. But don't forget to kiss the famous blarney stone! Cafe and shops on site.

Address **Blarney, Cork, Ireland**
Tel **+353 21 438 5252**
Web **blarneycastle.ie**

4 THE BISHOPS PALACE & GARDENS

Over 14 acres of spectacular gardens including picturesque, romantic, formal and Victorian styles, a wild flower arboretum, specimen trees, a contemporary Garden of Reflection and Community Garden alongside waterfalls, well pools, a moat with resident swans and a stunning medieval palace. Open daily 10am-6pm. Don't miss The English Country Garden Festival 10-12 June 2016 with Roy Lancaster.

Address **Wells, Somerset BA5 2PD**
Tel **01749 988111**
Web **bishopspalace.org.uk**

5 WOBURN ABBEY GARDENS

Stroll through 28 award-winning acres and explore the most-realised Humphry Repton garden in the UK. View the Chinese Dairy, enjoy views over the Bog Garden, discover the Camellia House and see what's growing in our Kitchen Garden. Don't miss the Woburn Abbey Garden Show on 25 and 26 June.

Address **Woburn, Bedfordshire MK17 9WA**
Tel **01525 290333** Web **woburnabbey.co.uk/gardens**

White Cottage Greenhouses

Victorian ref. 461

Specialists in the design, production and installation of
bespoke traditional glasshouses

For a free estimate call 01270 753826
Or request a brochure at www.whitecottage.co.uk

Downtools

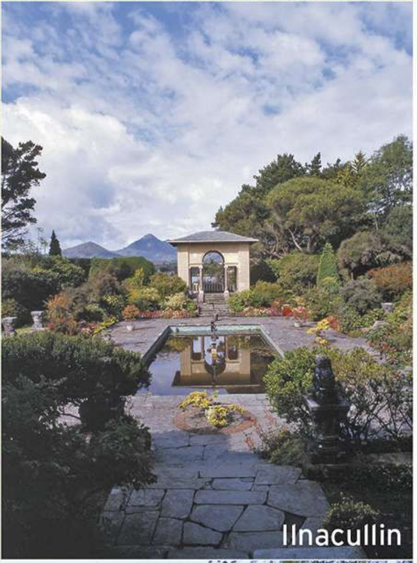
Book reviews, crossword, back issues, shop

How to create wild-style planting is explained in *New Wild Garden* by Ian Hodgson, reviewed on page 111.

CATHERINE THOMAS

Highgrove House

Like minded travellers


Ilnacullin

Munstead Wood

Prior Park

Quality Garden Tours

The Landscape Gardens of Capability Brown
Departures: Jun 24, Sep 30, 2016
Three nights' half board from £495pp

The Legacy of Gertrude Jekyll
Departures: May 29, Jun 5, 2016
Six nights' half board from £965pp

Highgrove and the Cotswolds
Departures: Jun 10, Aug 12, 22, Sep 2, 2016*
*September date subject to confirmation
Three nights' half board from £465pp

In an Irish Garden
Departures: Jun 23, Aug 11, 2016
Seven nights' half board from £1195pp

Gardens of North Wales
Departures: Jun 9, Sep 1, 2016
Three nights' half board from £395pp

Gardens and Wild Flowers of South Africa's Western Cape
Departures: Aug 25, Sep 11, 2016
15 nights' from £4,295pp

Sri Lanka: The Pearl of the Indian Ocean
Departures: Oct 13, 2016
12 nights' from £4,295pp

brightwater holidays
Quality Garden Tours 2016
RHS Garden Holidays
Sharing the best in Gardening
UK, EUROPEAN & WORLDWIDE GARDEN HOLIDAYS 2016/2017

RHS Garden Holidays
Sharing the best in Gardening

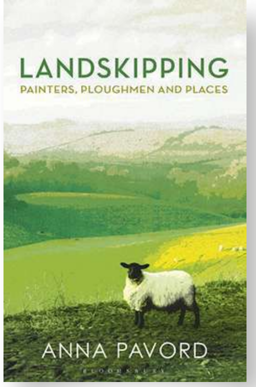
Proudly operated by Brightwater Holidays.

brightwater holidays

Brightwater Holidays Ltd
Eden Park House, Cupar, Fife KY15 4HS
www.brightwaterholidays.com
info@brightwaterholidays.com
+44 (0) 1334 657155

4498 ATOL PROTECTED
ABTOT The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Ltd
AITO 5020 Assured Quality · Expertise · Protection

Book reviews



LANDSKIPPING: PAINTERS, PLOUGHMEN AND PLACES

by Anna Pavord

Bloomsbury, £20
ISBN 978-1408868911

Anna Pavord gives a thoughtful and deeply personal account of our changing attitudes to the wider landscape.

Reviewer Ambra Edwards is a writer and garden historian.

Like Anna Pavord, I have chosen to live among the soft, enfolding hills of west Dorset. So perhaps it is inevitable that I should share some of her prejudices – a 'need for land to go up and down if I'm to feel comfortable in it', a preference for the quietly pastoral over the thrillingly sublime.

The book traces our changing relationship with landscape. The rapturous responses of the first landscape tourists, 18th-century painters and writers, are tellingly contrasted with the utilitarian approach of the agricultural improvers. We ride cheerily along with William Cobbett; sigh with hopelessly idealistic Thomas Johnes. We learn about sheep leazes and water meadows; that there's no such thing as common land.

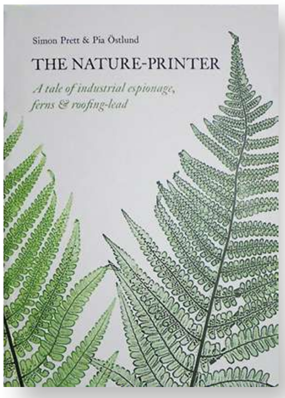
Pavord's writing is pure delight – elegant, observant and funny. 'As an environment', she declares, 'a golf course is a fascist state'. She imagines the megaliths of Stonehenge as performing elephants and gives a hilarious account of an insufficiently libidinous Welsh ram.

But there's little enough to laugh at. She is alarmed by the bureaucratic, bunker mentality that reduces the subtle complexities of the land to 'a series of environments, each with its list of inhabitants'. She deplores the ignorant vilification of farmers, pointing out that most of the landscape we admire has been shaped by years of human activity. She loathes the bullying desire to tell us what to see, that in littering the land with signboards and walkways, reduces it to a 'sanitised masquerade of the real thing'.

Yet *Landskipping* is as much celebration as polemic. Concluding with a beautiful account of her own 'particular patch', her visceral love for her chosen landscape carries us with her, filling us also with 'a slow-burning joy'.

Book offer

RRP £20. **Reader offer price £17** including p&p*.


Simon Prett & Pia Östlund
THE NATURE-PRINTER
A tale of industrial espionage, ferns & roofing-lead

THE NATURE-PRINTER

by Simon Prett & Pia Östlund

The Timpress, £10 (Paperback)
ISBN 978-0993484506

Part essay, part story, this book follows printmaker Pia Östlund on her quest to unearth the lost art of nature printing.

Reviewer Rosanna Morris is a freelance writer and editor.

In the library of the Chelsea Physic Garden, Swedish printmaker Pia Östlund comes across *The Ferns of Great Britain and Ireland*, written by Thomas Moore (curator at the garden from 1848 to 1887) and printed by Henry Bradbury. Flicking through its pages she is awed by the life-like images of ferns that are neither photographs nor illustrations but instead have been created using the obscure process of nature printing.

This book recounts her quest to find out how it was achieved, and why the Victorian technique was invented and subsequently abandoned. A journey that takes her from London to Gosport to Vienna.

Author Simon Prett follows Östlund's mission and examines the story behind the craft, and the reasons for its disappearance, weaving in facts and history with extracts from a plethora of sources that Östlund uncovers through her searches. A curious tale unfolds, featuring historical figures in the printing industry, including Bradbury and the Austrian printer and botanical illustrator Alois Auer.

The book is both document to a lost art, and the story of one woman's remarkable tenacity. Östlund tracks down and consults world experts; joins fern and historical printing societies; visits lead factories; and tries countless methods – many in vain. Each time, Prett observes her breakthroughs and her frustrating dead ends.

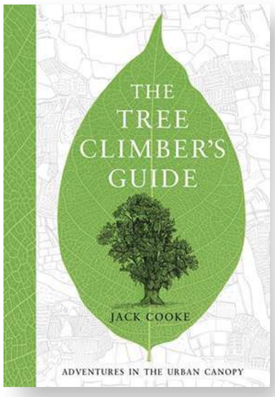
Prett is descriptive and colourful, verging on poetic, when following Östlund, evoking the atmosphere of her hunt; describing her strolling across Clifton Suspension Bridge to meet a university professor, or knee deep in ferns on a field trip in Rickmansworth.

The book is text heavy – it has about 30 images sectioned together towards the end that leave you longing for more – but you can't help but be drawn into this intriguing journey too.

Book offer

Sorry, no book offer available on this title.

Book reviews



THE TREE CLIMBER'S GUIDE
by Jack Cooke

HarperCollins, £14.99
ISBN 978-0008153915

This book is a lovely tale of a tree climber's exploration of the canopies of his favourite named trees in London gardens.

Reviewer Tony Kirkham is the head of Arboretum at Kew.

Climbing horse chestnut trees to harvest the early conkers as a child was the physical endurance activity that first kindled my lifelong passion for trees.

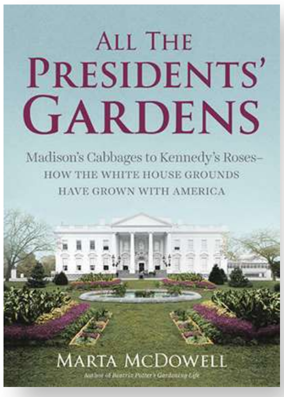
The taller the tree and the fewer the lateral branches, the greater the challenge to scale and the faster the adrenalin rush. But free climbing large shade trees can be dangerous and back at Kew my arborists use specially designed safety climbing equipment to aid access and protect them from falls.

I've always been keen to give everyone the opportunity to access the upper canopy of the larger shade trees, hence why we built the Xstrata Treetop Walkway in the arboretum at Kew, to allow visitors of all ages to witness the spectacular views from a tree's perspective.

This guide book is a unique approach to writing about trees, which I don't believe has ever been done before. It gives the reader a graphic description of the magnificent stature and architecture of more than 80 named trees, growing in London parks, garden squares, cemeteries and churchyards and even two named in my secret garden at Kew that the author climbed.

There's a brief chapter on the history species growing within the M25; how they arrived in these locations and their climbing attributes in terms of bark characteristics and branching, and the author's favourite climbing tree growing by the Battersea Park boating lake. Illustrated with simple, yet beautiful, black and white line drawings by Jennifer Pitchers, this is a fascinating account of how the writer manages to scale some of the denizens of the city, by grappling and clawing his way up to the lowest branches, often the hardest part of the climb. I'll never condone climbing trees without permission or safety aids, but this is a lovely book, with a new view on London's arboreal living monuments.

Book offer
RRP £14.99. **Reader offer price £12.99** including p&p*.


ALL THE PRESIDENTS' GARDENS
Madison's Cabbages to Kennedy's Roses–
HOW THE WHITE HOUSE GROUNDS HAVE GROWN WITH AMERICA
MARTA MCDOWELL

ALL THE PRESIDENTS' GARDENS
by Marta McDowell

Timber Press, £20
ISBN 978-1604695892

A well-presented history of the White House garden, which doubles as a companion to early American garden history.

Reviewer Tim Richardson is a garden critic and regular columnist.

If good books can be made of unpromising material, then this is a classic of that genre. Marta McDowell appears to have realised immediately that the White House garden is not intrinsically interesting. So she uses the subject instead as a peg on which to hang a useful, pertinently illustrated history of early American gardening. The fact she describes her own first visit to the White House garden only in the book's epilogue would have seemed bizarre in any other circumstance.

Early chapters, such as Versailles on the Potomac, trace the way the initial garden layout (axial lines of trees) was soon augmented (1804) by a more romantic area of lawns and clumped trees, a look that came to define the whole. Successive Presidents and First Ladies have tinkered with the estate, from James Madison who ordered flowering shrubs, to 'Ike' Eisenhower who turned a lawn into a putting green. We learn that the pet goats belonging to Abraham Lincoln's children ate all the flowers, and that the Shaker community were early seed specialists who supplied material for the gardens.

Perhaps the most important innovations were the East Garden created by Beatrix Farrand in 1916, subsequently reworked by 'Bunny' Mellon; and the celebrated Rose Garden (also by Mellon) commissioned by the Kennedys. We learn that early in his presidency, JFK had felt embarrassed by the state of the White House garden – especially the lawns – having visited Windsor Castle and Schönbrunn in Vienna.

The narrative rather gallops through the Carter, Reagan and Bush administrations, but comes right up to date with Michelle Obama's vegetable garden.

The early part of the story is by far the most interesting. As a general history of American gardening one hopes it will not be overlooked.

Book offer
RRP £20. **Reader offer price £17** including p&p*.

The ENGLISH GARDENING SCHOOL

— CHELSEA —

Long established as the leader in all design and gardening tuition and based at the unique and historic Chelsea Physic Garden

ONE YEAR GOOD GARDENING DIPLOMA COURSE

September 2016 – June 2017

Covers the best in planting design while training in the more serious aspects of horticultural techniques. Working sessions at Sissinghurst with head gardener Troy Smith and lectures by many leading gardening personalities. Regular visits to outstanding private gardens.

(1 day a week (Tues), 10.30am–3.15pm, over three 10 week terms)

10 WEEK INTENSIVE GARDEN DESIGN DIPLOMA COURSE

January – March 2017

Covers all you need to know in this diverse subject, including TWO real design projects and CAD tuition. Drawing skills, estimating, plant knowledge, water features, garden lighting and visits to the work of leading designers with Rosemary Alexander and other tutors.

(3 days a week in school, 10.30am-3.15pm, plus 2 days homework)

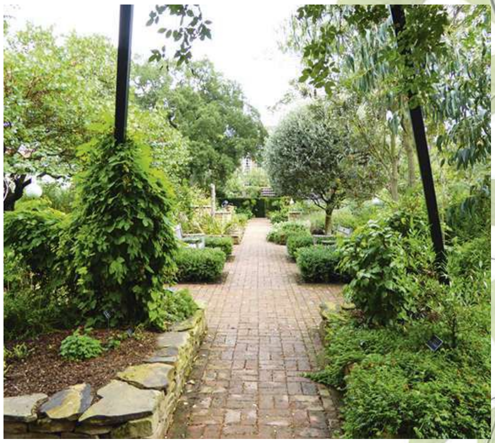
GARDEN DESIGN & CARING FOR YOUR GARDEN

Distance Learning Courses – study anytime, anywhere in the world.

A stepping stone to a new career.

These two courses are a step by step guide to either designing your own garden or learning how to plant and maintain an existing garden: drawing up plans, hard landscaping, site analysis, planting, month by month tasks etc. Taught through a comprehensive course book, with projects submitted by post.

1-3 years to complete and individual assessment.



Chelsea Physic Garden

Not sure which course is for you? Come along to an information session to see our location and find out more.

www.englishgardeningschool.co.uk

Email: info@englishgardeningschool.co.uk

Tel: 020 7352 4347

BOOK NOW. Garden Makers Day, 16 November – design and planting philosophies with Arne Maynard, The Bannermans and more

---

Agriframes™

FREE DELIVERY

QUOTE CODE:

GL0616*

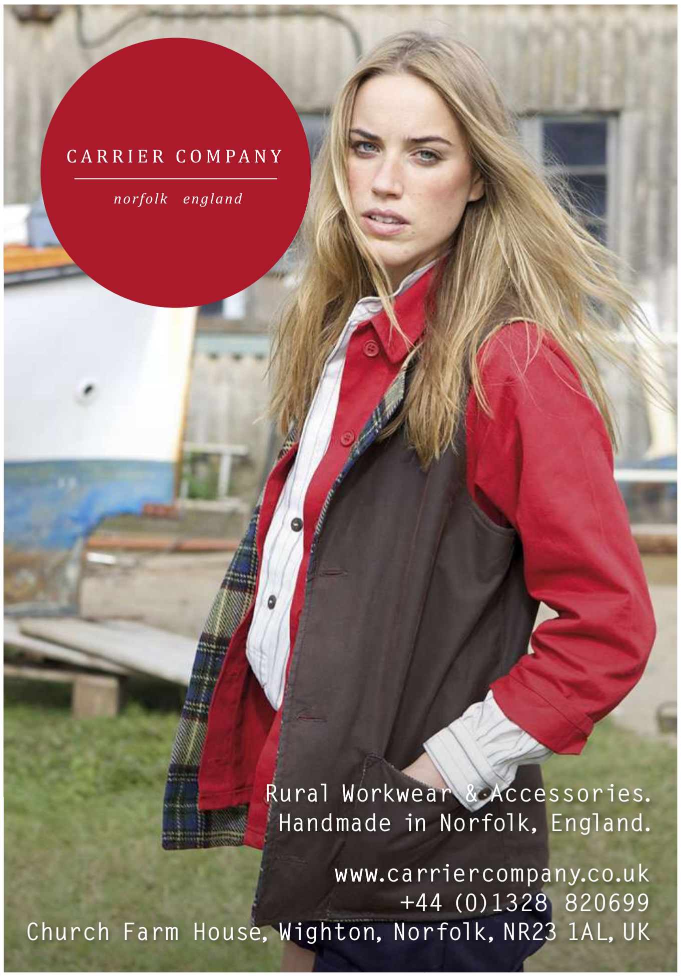
Valid until 30/06/16

Arches • Pergolas • Gazebos • Bowers • Porticoes • Obelisks • Screens • Fruit Cages

*This promotional code is valid at www.agriframes.co.uk or over the phone to a member of our customer service team. Limited to one use per customer. Applies to standard delivery to mainland UK addresses only. Excludes bespoke items and installation service. We retain the right to cancel or amend a promotional offer at any time. Code is valid until 30/06/16.

Shop online: **www.agriframes.co.uk**

Tel: **0117 934 1790** Agriframes is part of the TILDENET Group



CARRIER COMPANY
norfolk england

Rural Workwear & Accessories.
Handmade in Norfolk, England.

www.carriercompany.co.uk
+44 (0)1328 820699
Church Farm House, Wighton, Norfolk, NR23 1AL, UK

SUNSCREEN PROTECTION FOR EXTERIOR WOOD

osmo

CLEAR
OAK
CEDAR
NATURAL

osmo UV-Protection-Oil Extra
Clear UV-Protection-Oil for exterior.
Natural oil based – microporous.
2 in 1 – Foundation and top coat in one
Finish protected against mould, algae and fungal attack
Highest coverage.
420 Clear satin

Call on **01296 481220** or learn more at **osmouk.com**

✓ MICROPOROUS | ✓ NATURAL | ✓ UV-RESISTANT | ✓ OIL-BASED | ✓ HIGH COVERAGE

THE ART OF NATURALISTIC PLANTING, CAMBO GARDENS DESIGN COURSES

FIVE DAY PLANTING DESIGN COURSE WITH GUEST SPECIALISTS

MONDAY 29TH AUGUST-FRIDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER, £750

Delve deeper into naturalistic design through the eyes of three experts as they explore the key aspects of naturalistic planting design and their relationship to art theory, maintenance and personal creativity.

Five days of expert tuition including:
- Three days with Cambo Garden Head Gardener Elliott Forsyth
- One day with naturalistic gardening specialist Dr. Noel Kingsbury
- One day with artist Susan Forsyth BA (Hons.) Fine Art, M.A. Art History

The course will be held at Cambo Garden and will consist of guided walk-rounds the garden, slideshows and question and answer sessions.

Tel: 01333 451 040
events@camboheritagetrust.org.uk
www.camboestate.com

16 68
CAMBO
COUNTRY HOUSE & ESTATE

keder greenhouse

For The Serious Gardener

Proven to withstand wind speeds of 140mph

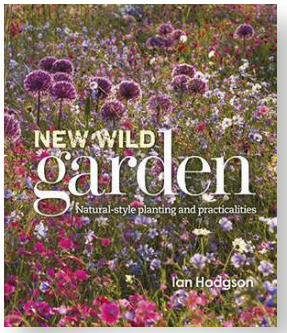
All year round growing

10 Year Guarantee Against UV Degradation
- Superior growing environment
- Unique bubble cladding giving excellent heat retention
- Resistant against extreme weather conditions
- Excellent light transmission
- Low Maintenance
- The strongest and warmest greenhouses for the serious gardener
- Can be extended
- Available in a wide range of sizes

Keder Greenhouses Limited
Newtown, Offenham, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 8RZ

t: +44 (0) 1386 49094 sales@kedergreenhouse.co.uk
www.kedergreenhouse.co.uk @KederGreenhouse

Book reviews



NEW WILD GARDEN: NATURAL-STYLE PLANTING AND PRACTICALITIES

by Ian Hodgson

Frances Lincoln, £25
ISBN 978-0711237285

A manual for creating wild, naturalistic spaces that should enthuse readers to consider the plight of pollinators.

Reviewer Julia Wylie is a freelance gardener and writer.

Despite the multi-layered planting on the front cover, this is essentially a step-by-step practical manual for beginner gardeners who are new to creating wild-style spaces.

The difference between replicating man-managed (hay meadows) and truly wild landscapes (bluebell woods) is clearly explained. Preparation and development are well documented, showing that wild-style planting is not about just letting plants 'go wild'. The refreshingly pragmatic approach highlights the importance of removing perennial weeds before seed-sowing or planting. Choosing plants suited to the site and soil conditions are also discussed in depth.

It was disappointing to read that cornfield weeds/annuals are mentioned as plants in traditional hay meadows. Strictly speaking, meadows are man-made, managed landscapes with grass and perennials. Poppies, cornflowers and other annuals only grow where the soil has been disturbed, which is why they abounded in arable land after ploughing and before the widespread use of pesticides. They wouldn't grow in a traditional grassy meadow and should really be called 'arables'.

A suggestion to mimic nature by using bold repetition of the chosen plant species to create more dramatic multi-layered displays seems to be missing. Especially considering the book promises to explain the new natural style advocated by designers such as Piet Oudolf, Christopher Bradley-Hole and Dan Pearson.

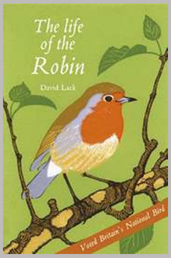
However, considering the plight of pollinators and wildlife in general as a result of habitat loss, encouraging readers, as the author does, to maximise their spaces with meadow effects, ponds and refuges for wildlife is most important. The section on container gardening will be especially useful to those with smaller spaces.

Book offer

RRP £25. **Reader offer price £21** including p&p*.

Other books

The best of the rest of this month's new titles offers everything from fragrant flowers to the finest English country gardens

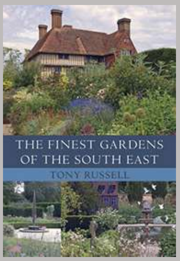


THE LIFE OF THE ROBIN

OFFER PRICE **£9.49**

by David Lack
Pallas Athene, £9.99
ISBN 978-18436812055

The relatively unknown world of one of Britain's favourite garden birds is revealed in this reissued natural history classic.

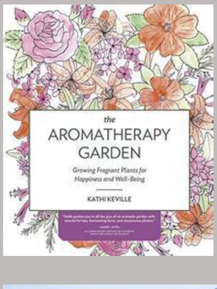


THE FINEST GARDENS OF THE SOUTH EAST

OFFER PRICE **£13.99**

by Tony Russell
Amberley Publishing, £15.99
ISBN 978-1445649788

A richly illustrated guide to some of the best gardens in southeast England.

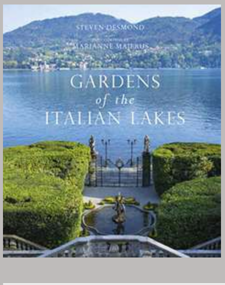


THE AROMATHERAPY GARDEN

OFFER PRICE **£15.99**

by Kathi Keville
Timber Press, £17.99
ISBN 978-1604695496

How to combine scented plants to transform the garden into a restorative haven filled with healing aromas.



GARDENS OF THE ITALIAN LAKES

OFFER PRICE **£30**

by Steven Desmond,
photography by Marianne Majerus
Frances Lincoln, £35
ISBN 978-0711236301

Discover the magnificent gardens located on the shores surrounding the Italian lakes.

BOOK OFFER DETAILS

Most featured books are available to readers at special rates. For details of book offers, arranged in association with Sparkle Direct, **call 01326 569444 or visit gardensillustrated.com/bookshop**

Offers apply to the reviewed books as indicated. Other titles listed here, and mentioned in the magazine, are available to order via gardensillustrated.com/bookshop or gardensillustrated.com/offers. Alternatively, call 01326 569444 with your credit or debit card details, or send a cheque payable to *Gardens Illustrated* to: ***Gardens Illustrated* Bookshop, PO Box 60, Helston, Cornwall TR13 0TP.** *Bookshop prices include p&p within the UK, unless the order is under the value of £10, in which case there will be a £1.25 postage charge added. For worldwide delivery p&p is calculated per order, please call **01326 569444** for a quote. All books are offered subject to availability. Please allow 7-10 days for delivery. Your contract is with Sparkle Direct Ltd.

BUYING BACK ISSUES OF GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

PRINT VERSION

You can buy printed issues of the magazine published up to 12 months ago. See below for details.

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED
On the wild side
CORNISH CASTLE
Chelsea Flower Show
Essential herbs for keen cooks

DIGITAL VERSION

Gardens Illustrated is available as a digital edition – search '*Gardens Illustrated*' on the App Store, Google Play or Zinio.com

CLOTHBOUND SLIPCASES

Cost from £9.50 each (inc p&p). *Subscriber discounts available – see below for details.*

TO ORDER PRINTED COPIES OR SLIPCASES

UNITED KINGDOM	OUTSIDE UK
0844 844 0253	+44 1795 414721

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED PRINTED ISSUES ORDER FORM

Complete the order form and send to: *Gardens Illustrated*, Back Issues, PO Box 279, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DF. (You may photocopy this form.)

SINGLE ISSUES

I would like to order ____________ copy/copies of issue(s)____________

SUBSCRIBERS	NON-SUBSCRIBERS
☐ UK – £4.40 per copy	☐ UK – £5.50 per copy
☐ EU – £5.20 per copy	☐ EU – £6.50 per copy
☐ Rest of world – £6 per copy	☐ Rest of world – £7.50 per copy

CLOTHBOUND SLIPCASES

I would like to order ____________slipcase(s)

SUBSCRIBERS	NON-SUBSCRIBERS
☐ UK – £7.50 each	☐ UK – £9.50 each
☐ EU – £8.50 each	☐ EU – £10.75 each
☐ Rest of world – £9.50 each	☐ Rest of world – £12 each

Postage & packaging is included in all prices.

PAYMENT DETAILS

☐ I enclose a cheque/international money order made payable to *Gardens Illustrated* for £ ____________

☐ I would like to pay by credit/debit card, please debit my card

Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro ☐

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Expiry date ☐☐ ☐☐ Issue no. (Maestro only) ☐☐

Signature ______________________ Date / /

YOUR DETAILS

Title ____________ Forename ____________

Surname ______________________

Address ______________________

____

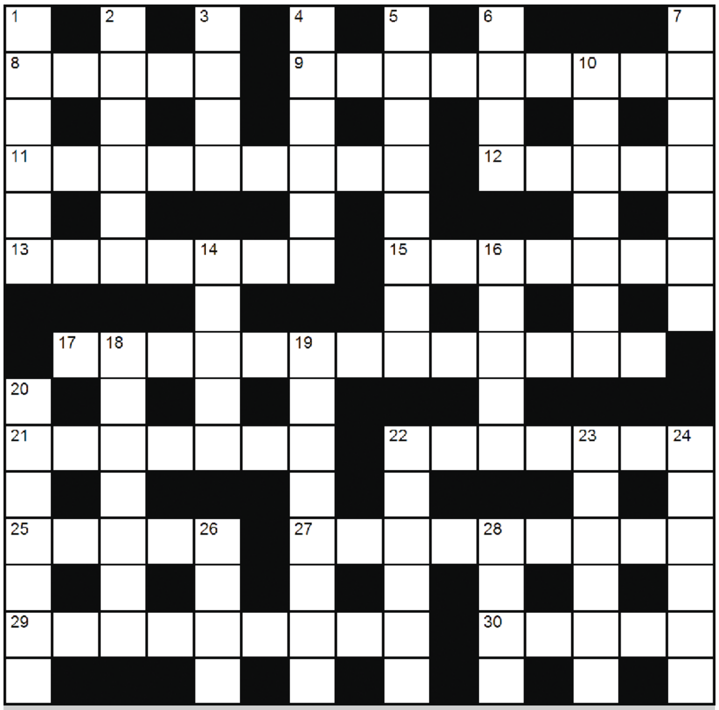
Post/Zip code ______________________

Daytime tel no. ______________________

Email address ______________________

Subscriber number (if applicable) ______________________

Crossword



ACROSS

8 *Yucca flaccida* '___' – alternative in *Hedera* (5)

9 Cor! – mosaic devastated the *Montbretia* genus (9)

11 Describes repeat flowering in a season – ten, matron, oddly! (9)

12 Goes out with… stoned fruits (5)

13 The 'spider' orchid removes carbon from cabbage genus (7)

15 Infection: a seed is ruined (7)

17 Skilled in growing plants, environmentalist identified as culprit (5-8)

21 In Tresco, no clear genus of deciduous ferns (7)

22 Produces 'sports'? Must eat, somehow! (7)

25 Pear genus (5)

27 Pea/bean relative, also called French honeysuckle and Sweet vetch – a red mushy mesh! (9)

29 The cornflower genus – provides a neat cure (9)

30 Vineyard fruit precedes hyacinth if *Muscari* (5)

DOWN

1 Timid *Ribes* contains leaf's central vein (6)

2 Plant commonly called 'Mexican aster' comes out at start of April (6)

3 Common cornflower colour can include yellow initially (4)

4 Genus of plants in buttercup family – in fact a Easter-lily! (6)

5 Main presenter of BBC *Gardeners' World* (5,3)

6/26 Such weather's unusual in June – producing chilled *Antirrhinum*? (4,4)

7 Composite flowers – dead if you're pushing them up! (7)

10 Gas produced by decomposing vegetation (7)

14 Excellent, what water-retaining granules do when wet! (5)

16 Dear description of Basil and William? (5)

18 Range of a plant's underground growth – or nut or bananas! (4,3)

19 Like fennel fronds they fear damage (8)

20 Thicket of trees periodically maintained (7)

22 *Mespilus* is the genus of this apple-like fruit (6)

23 A red and white dahlia made from rattan! (6)

24 ___savory is its annual form (6)

26 See 6 down

28 Newsagent stocks a culinary herb of *Salvia* genus! (4)

SOLUTIONS TO THIS MONTH'S CROSSWORD WILL BE PRINTED NEXT MONTH

MAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS 1 Flag **4** Mock orange **9** Balmoral **10** Gather **11** Gallon **13** Manuring **14** Wigwams **15** Chicon **17/3** Little Gem **19** Pollard **21** Peter Pan **23** Orchid **25** Foster **26** Eranthis **28** Well-rotted **29** Pods.

DOWN 2 Liana **4** Maranta **5** Calamus **6** Organic **7** Astor **8** Greenwood **12** Light **14** White rose **16** Isaac **18** Esparto **19** Pinsent **20** Leopard **22** Extol **24** Ivied **27** Top.

10 Day luxury garden tour of

Cape Town &
the Cape Winelands

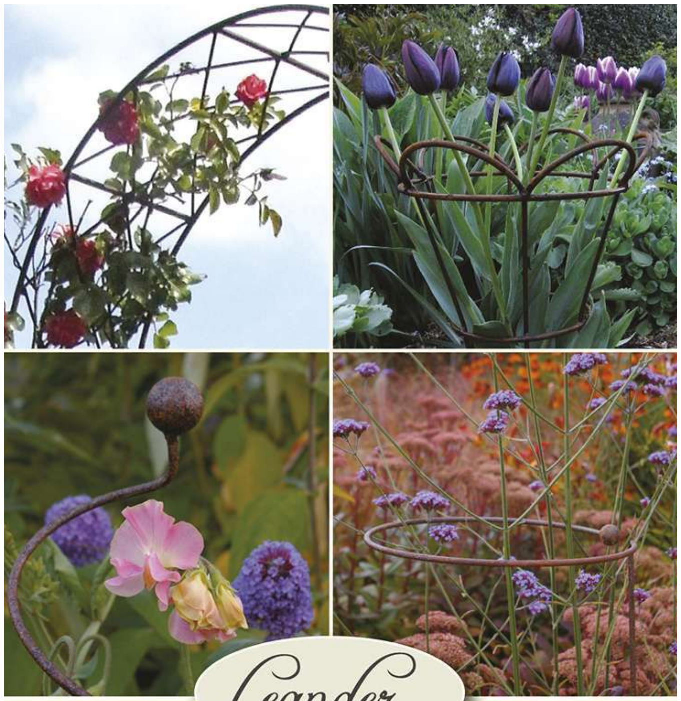
27 November - 7 December 2016

Wine, dine and bask in the glory of
the most precious Floral Kingdom on earth.

Capetonian & top garden designer,
Carrie Latimer, takes you on an insider's tour
of the region's most exclusive private gardens
and breathtaking landscapes.

More info: www.newworldgardens.co.za
carrie@carrielatimer.co.za

New World Gardens



Leander
Est. 1980

PLANT SUPPORTS

*Beautiful designs for herbaceous perennials,
roses, shrubs & climbers. Made in England.*

www.leanderplantsupports.co.uk
Tel: 01773 550495 for a brochure

LEARN TO BECOME A GARDEN DESIGNER

At the **London College of Garden Design** our aim is to provide **world-class, inspirational garden design training.** Our one year **Garden Design Diploma** was created to enable students to learn from the very best in the profession.

Our students have consistently won the **Society of Garden Designers'** prestigious **'Student of the Year Award'** competition and many recent graduates have won medals at RHS Shows in 2014 and 2015.

We now also offer an intensive 6 month **Planting Design Course** delivered by some of the **UK's leading planting design specialists** including Nigel Dunnett, Jo Thompson and Rosy Hardy.

With classes at the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew** and short courses at **RHS Garden Wisley** and other venues you can be sure to get **inspirational teaching from world-class designers** in the heart of London.

LONDON
COLLEGE
OF GARDEN
DESIGN

CONTACT US
+44 (0)1483 762955
info@lcgd.org.uk

lcgd.org.uk

10% OFF
YOUR FIRST PURCHASE
USE CODE: **GD10**
Terms apply

Raised waistband for back protection

Zipped pocket for mobile phones

Waterproof seat panel

Stab proof pockets for sharp tools

Adjustable, waterproof padded knees

Genus

HIGH PERFORMANCE CLOTHING
FOR **HARD WORKING GARDENERS**

www.genus.gs

Pedigree
By Bulldog 1780

FEATHER WEIGHT

FSC
FSC CERTIFIED

LIFETIME GUARANTEE

LIFETIME GUARANTEE

EASY CLEAN

Introducing Pedigree:
The new generation of British Bulldog tools bred from 235 years of heritage, craftsmanship and manufacturing bloodlines.
pedigreegarden.co.uk

Digging

Cultivation

Transformation

define

a single obelisk adds height & architectural interest throughout the year

Ideal for roses and vigorous climbers, obelisks can support scented columns of sweet peas or other annual climbers that need room to grow.

Choose from arches & obelisks; supports for herbaceous clumps or individual peonies; Annabelle hydrangea supports; clematis & rose cages; standard rose umbrellas; trellises; steel stakes; step-over apple supports & vegetable cages.

MUNTONS
TRADITIONAL
PLANT SUPPORTS

www.muntons.net
0800 130 3421
Muntons at Cedar Nursery
Horsley Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3JX
Hampton Court Palace Flower Show
Stand HC 520

MADE IN BRITAIN MADE IN
GUARANTEE 25 YEAR GUARANTEE

Shop

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

Products for discerning gardeners

Practical products specially chosen by us
that are a joy to use and made to last

SAVE £20 WHEN YOU BUY ALL THREE

Hand scratcher
A great multi-purpose weeder with a lovely ash wood handle.
£40 **£35** plus p&p

Exaggerated handweeder
Perfect for use as a hand hoe or for uprooting weeds. Ash wood handle.
£40 **£35** plus p&p

Maubach trowel
The wide, flat, tapered blade is perfect for digging planting holes. Ash wood handle.
£40 **£35** plus p&p

Regular price **Subscriber price***

Online Visit **gardensillustrated.com/shop235**
Telephone Call **0344 245 8098†** **quoting code GI235**

Shop GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

Products for discerning gardeners

Practical products specially chosen and developed by us that are a joy to use and made to last

Suede apron

This waist-fitting apron in chocolate-brown suede features an adjustable belt and four pockets for tools, twine, notebook and even a mobile phone.

£45 **£40** (plus p&p)

Garden kneeler

Weed and plant in comfort with our suede and waxed cotton kneeler.

£30 **£25** (plus p&p)

SAVE £15 WHEN YOU BUY ALL THREE

Anti-bramble gauntlets

Tough, anti-bramble gauntlets made with soft leather, cotton-lined gloves and elbow-length, suede cuffs. Available in one size.

£30 **£25** (plus p&p)

ORDER FORM GI235 – PLEASE SEND ORDER AND PAYMENT to: *Gardens Illustrated* Shop, PO BOX 4445, Colchester CO2 8GD.

YOUR DETAILS

Title ______ Initial ____ Surname ______________________

Address ______________________________

____

____________________ Postcode ______________________

Mobile ______________________________

Email address ______________________________

Your personal information will be used as set out in our Privacy Policy, which can be viewed at immediate.co.uk/privacy-policy. Please give us your email address to receive special offers and promotions from Immediate Media / *Gardens Illustrated*. You may unsubscribe at any time.

PAYMENT DETAILS

I enclose a cheque for £___________ made payable to '*Gardens Illustrated* Shop' with my name and address on the back.

Subscriber code (if applicable) ______________________

Or charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Maestro

Card Number

☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Start Date ☐☐ / ☐☐ Expiry Date ☐☐ / ☐☐

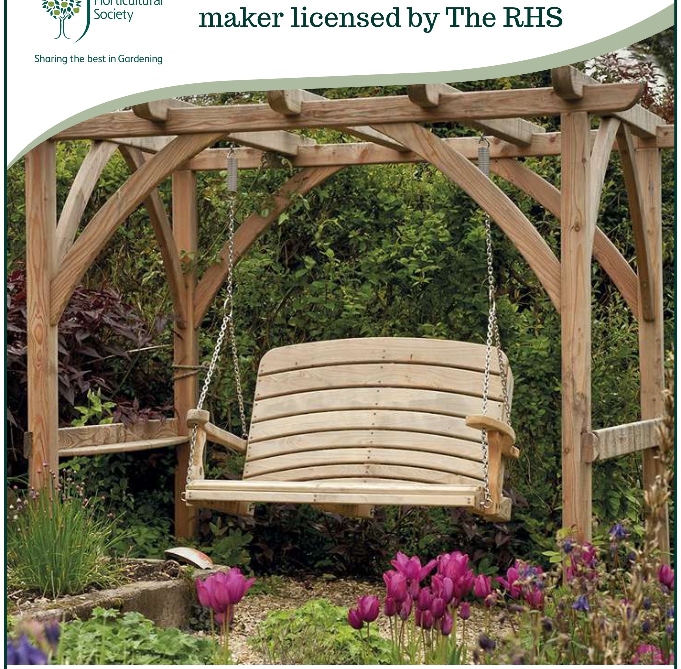
Switch Issue No ☐☐ Signature ______________________

Regular price **Subscriber price***

Item	Price†		Qty	P&P ††	Sub-total
Exaggerated handweeder	**£40**	**£35**		£3.50	
Maubach trowel	**£40**	**£35**		£3.50	
Hand scratcher	**£40**	**£35**		£3.50	
Set of three tools	**£100**	**£85**		£5.00	
Garden kneeler	**£30**	**£25**		£2.50	
Suede apron	**£45**	**£40**		£2.50	
Anti-bramble gauntlets	**£30**	**£25**		£2.50	
Set of three leather items	**£90**	**£75**		£5.00	
			Please add p&p††	**Total**	

††If ordering multiple products, highest p&p applies

Terms and conditions All prices exclude P&P charges. Please allow 7 working days for delivery. †The cost to call 0344 numbers is the same as calling a normal local or national landline. If your tariff or call package offers free or inclusive calls to landlines, numbers starting with 03 will be included. *To receive the subscriber discount please have your subscriber code to hand; for telephone orders you will be prompted for this, for web orders you will find instructions at gardensillustrated.com/subsdiscount. For postal orders please add your subscriber number to the back of your cheque. Your subscriber code can be found on the bag in which your magazine is posted. It begins with the letter 'G' and includes 6 digits. Subscriber price is for subscribers only. Your personal information will be used as set out in our Privacy Policy, which can be viewed at immediate.co.uk/privacy-policy



Royal Horticultural Society
Sharing the best in Gardening

The only bespoke swing & bench maker licensed by The RHS

Visit us online at **sittingspiritually.co.uk**
or call us on 01297 443084

SITTING SPIRITUALLY
— *Of Lyme Regis* —

Artisan
PLANT SUPPORTS
www.artisanplantsupports.co.uk

A range of beautiful hand crafted steel plant supports and obelisks designed to provide architectural structure within the garden whilst also complimenting and enhancing the plants features.

Visit our website or telephone to request a brochure:

www.artisanplantsupports.co.uk
Email: info@artisanplantsupports.co.uk Tel: 01538 753128
Woodside Farm, Clamgoose Lane Kingsley Moor, Staffordshire ST10 2EG

W G GRACE & SON LTD

DESIGNERS & JOINERS OF TRADITIONAL GREENHOUSES

Both standard range and bespoke Greenhouses

to find out more and request a brochure:

www.wggrace.co.uk or telephone **01647 252995**

OXFORD PLANTERS
The finest in British outdoor joinery

Designers and manufacturers of
hardwood planters and garden furnishings

RHS CHELSEA
GARDEN PRODUCT OF THE YEAR 2016
FINALIST

www.oxfordplanters.co.uk
info@oxfordplanters.co.uk
01608 683022

SAVE UP TO 57%
on the perfect
FATHER'S DAY GIFT

WORLD'S GREATEST DAD WORLD'S GREATEST

SAVE UP TO 57% with a unique and thoughtful magazine subscription gift this Father's Day... from gardening to fast cars, science to history, inspiration for his next holiday or the essential guide to TV and radio, there's a magazine to suit every man's taste. Order today for the perfect gift this Father's Day.

SAVE 41%
12 issues for £29.99
Packed with triple-tested recipes and practical ideas for every meal occasion

SAVE 35%
12 issues for £34.99
Help your father create that perfect garden he's always wanted

SAVE 57%
13 issues for £24.99
If he loves fast cars and driving, he'll love Top Gear magazine

SAVE 40%
13 issues for £34.99
Packed full of great ideas for your father to explore the British countryside

SAVE 48%
26 issues for £34.99*
The ultimate digital TV and radio guide

SAVE 36%
13 issues for £40.00
Britain's bestselling history magazine; perfect for enthusiasts of all levels of knowledge and interest

SAVE 25%
13 issues for £41.92
The science and technology magazine for his inquisitive mind

SAVE 25%
12 issues for £44.90
The biggest name in astronomy

SAVE 30%
13 issues for £45.49
Everything he loves about riding a mountain bike

SAVE 30%
13 issues for £45.49
The manual for the modern road cyclist

SAVE 42%
13 issues for £31.99
Get him inspired with over 75 recipes, restaurant recommendations and travel ideas

SAVE 25%
13 issues for £38.90
The UK's leading natural-history magazine; offering him a window to the natural world

SAVE 25%
13 issues for £38.00
Stories of adventure and exploration

SAVE 35%
12 issues for £29.99
Inspire him every month with the award winning Lonely Planet Traveller

SAVE 30%
13 issues for £45.49
Swim, bike, run, faster

SAVE 25%
13 issues for £58.40
Bestselling classical music magazine

SAVE 20%
10 issues for £19.99
The UK's most practical and straight-talking food magazine

SAVE 30%
13 issues for £40.95
Beautiful plants and gardens

SAVE 30%
13 issues for £47.75
Discover your family tree

SAVE 30%
13 issues for £43.19
What to ride, where to ride and how to ride

SAVE 30%
13 issues for £47.75
Bring him the colour, action and drama of the world's most spectacular sport

☎ Call **0844 844 0260**
Quote Code FD16SP
Calls will cost 7p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge

Visit **buysubscriptions.com/fathersday**
Quote Code FD16SP

More great offers available online at www.buysubscriptions.com/fathersday

Offer ends Thursday 30th June 2016. This offer is valid for UK delivery addresses only. All savings are calculated as a percentage of the full shop price, excluding Radio Times which is calculated as a percentage of the Basic Annual Rate. or overseas rates visit www.buysubscriptions.com/fathersday. All ather's Day subscriptions will start with the first issue available after 19th June 2016. Should the magazine ordered change in frequency; we will honour the number of issues and not the term of the subscription. *Radio Times subscriptions are for 26 weekly issues (6 months). The Basic Annual UK Subscription Rate of Radio Times is £131. This price is for 51 issues, which includes the Christmas double issue and a contribution towards postage.

CONSERVATORY BLINDS

HILLARYS
You'll love what we do

Carpets | Blinds | Curtains | Shutters

up to 50% off*

TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR LOCAL ADVISOR
CALL **0800 389 1658** OR VISIT **HILLARYS.CO.UK**

*T's & C's apply.

EDUCATION

The Horticultural Correspondence College

Gardening Courses
Home-study

- For leisure or for a career
- Over 30 courses in Gardening, Garden Design, Arboriculture, Forestry, Floristry and more
- Many courses prepare you for RHS or RFS/ABC quals.

Free info FREEPHONE 0800 083 9191 or 01409 220 777
Or email: info@hccollege.co.uk www.hccollege.co.uk

PONDS

Aquaplancton

Pond Before
Pond After

Voted Home and Garden "Product of the Year"
Aquaplancton has been clearing ponds of blanket weed, duckweed, algae, green water, sludge, slime, odour and clogged filters, for over 20 years. People re-order time and time again which says a lot for this safe, natural remedy.
www.aquaplancton.co.uk
Tel: 01298 214003

PLANT ACCESSORIES

www.bespokeplantsupports.co.uk
Metal Plant Supports
from £1.50
New Non-Rusty Range Available
Free Delivery on orders over £40

To advertise
here call
Max Spalton on
0117 300 8530

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

GREENHOUSES

GREENHOUSES
Top brand greenhouses at factory direct prices

The Greenhouse People

Blythe Park, Cresswell,
Stoke-On-Trent ST11 9RD

0800 083 9631

for FREE brochure pack
www.greenhousepeople.co.uk

PLANTERS

ARTHUR JACK & Cº
Traditional Georgian style steel planters, window boxes and butts

Hand-crafted in England
01299 827059 www.arthurjack.co.uk

EVENTS

TWO FOR ONE
GIJUN16
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
TICKET OFFER
SALVO FAIR 2016

SALVO FAIR
SAT 18th - SUN 19th JUNE
Henley-on-Thames Admission £10
2-FOR-1 ticket offer with this ad
FRI 17th JUNE Trade Day Admission £20
www.salvo-fair.com

GARDEN ORNAMENTS

GEOFF'S GARDEN ORNAMENTS
01243 532 357

Geoff's Garden Ornaments specialises in all stone fountains.

Unbelievable prices, huge selection with free nationwide delivery

WWW.GEOFFS-GARDEN-ORNAMENTS.CO.UK

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

Jacksons Fencing

News, topical treats and more...

Advertisement

What a difference a deck makes...

That might be a rather cheesy pun, but the sentiment is quite sincere - hopefully it will get your attention, you may read on, then I can tell you a little about the difference a deck can make to you? With the heady promise of long hot summer days, our thoughts readily turn to making the most of our outside space. I don't think I'm alone in wanting to get projects sorted, so I can get the hard work out of the way and then be outside relaxing and enjoying the better weather. This is exactly what spurred me on to get a decking project underway last March.

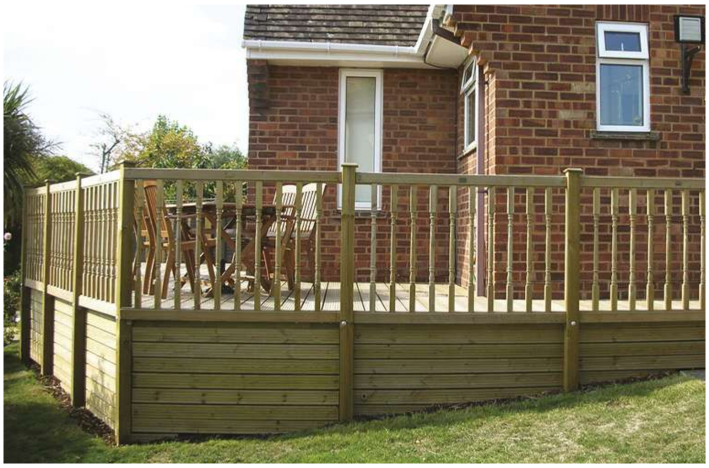
I had an area at home leading out to the back garden from two sets of French windows. It was rather depressing and dingy, especially as this was what you saw from the house and the first thing that you saw when stepping outside. Not a great first impression!

My plan was to consolidate the two areas adjacent to the doors, cover over some old concrete, take out old decking tiles and remove a rockery. By covering it with an L shaped deck, there would be room for a small bistro style table set - this part of the garden gets morning sun, so it will be lovely for weekend breakfasts. There would also be room for a storage box, planters for fruit trees and decorative planting. All in all, a much better use of space. We managed to get this completed well before Easter, which was great because it meant other weekends could be spent doing the nice stuff like sourcing plants, pots and prettying up other parts of the garden.

This was a fairly simple use of deck, but there's so much more that it can do. The example below shows how it can make sloping ground useable - as you can see there was quite a drop from the back of this house to the grass, which previously had some concrete steps down to the lawn. The decked area is now level with the house, enabling the occupants to enjoy a large raised deck perfect for dining and relaxing.

It must be said that when committing to a project like this you would want the materials to last, so it's well worth investing in Jacksons deck boards, which like all their timber products are guaranteed for 25 years. If you go to your dedicated web page **www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk/lifestyle** there are links to info on decking to help you find out more.

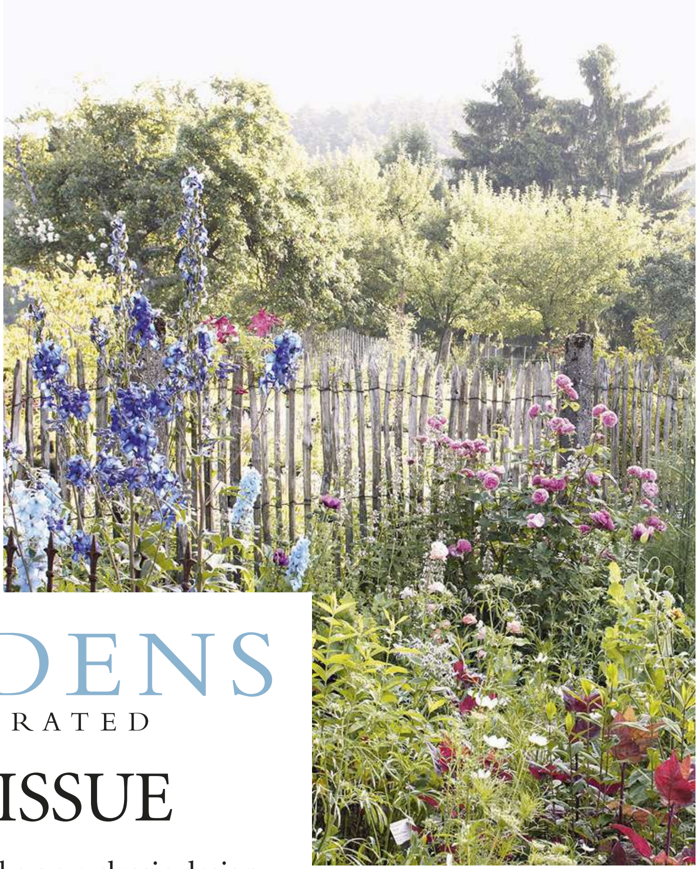
louise@jacksons-fencing.co.uk



Win £300 of Jacksons vouchers...

To enter the **free prize draw** and be in with a chance to win £300 of Jacksons vouchers simply log on to your dedicated page, address below and follow the easy instructions on how to enter. The draw closes 30.6.16.
To enter go to: **www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk/lifestyle**

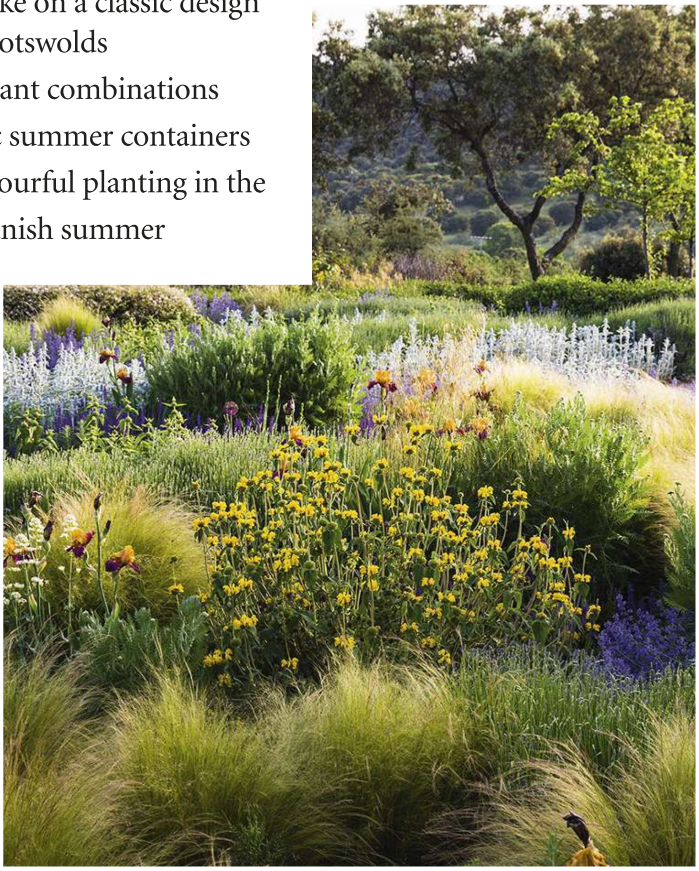
For info on any of Jacksons products or brochures, please call **0800 408 4733** to talk to your local Jacksons Fencing Centre.



GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED

JULY ISSUE

- A contemporary take on a classic design in the Cotswolds
- Cutting-edge plant combinations
- Ideas for romantic summer containers
- Sustainable and colourful planting in the heat of a Spanish summer



REBECCA BERNSTEIN, SABRINA ROTHE, CLAIRE TAKACS, ANDREW MONTGOMERY

GARDENS
ILLUSTRATED
The making of a new English flower garden
Bring back the buttonhole
GARDENS

ON SALE 22 JUNE

Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition – see page 36.
Also in selected Waitrose, Sainsbury's and Tesco stores,
as well as WHSmith, and all good magazine retailers.

La dame aux japonicas

Camellias, with their ephemeral beauty, were something of a fleeting passion for Frank until a visit to a Japanese-style garden gave him new ideas

WORDS **FRANK RONAN** ILLUSTRATION **CELIA HART**

Like Bette Davis's eyebrows in Now Voyager, *camellias can be tamed*

Summer is not, you might think, the appropriate time of year to be talking about camellias, but bear with me. Glorious in their season, there aren't many worth a glance by now, and that is their problem. They are, for the most part, more substance than character, and it is hard to justify the elbow room on that precious west-facing wall in a limited garden.

As a beginning gardener I had an instant passion for them, and seem to remember buying three in my first big nursery splurge – somewhere down the back end of the King's Road (it was also, not coincidentally, the first day I was ever set loose with a credit card). Later, while living in Scotland, I came to admire them even more when we used to go and see them on the Isle of Gigha, where they grew to arboreal proportions; great walls of blossom in an Argyll woodland.

It wasn't that I stopped loving them, and have always intended, for the last fifteen years, to plant at least one in Worcestershire (the King's Road specimens, after several peripatetic years, were abandoned in Normandy). But a combination of being unable to decide which one and not having a good place for it kept the project on a long finger. Then I saw *Camellia* 'Cornish Snow' outside Helen Dillon's front door in Dublin, and fell for it, even though it wasn't in flower. It has delicate twisty leaves of a blackish hue.

Seeing it flower on another visit confirmed the decision, and we happened to be having a west-facing wall built, so I reserved a place for it. But before I had a chance to buy one, a friend appeared bearing a rare and slightly tender phlomis (I will remember the species if it comes through three winters and not before) and when I said I had nowhere for it he pointed at the camellia gap and I was forced to give it up out of politeness. Now we have to wait until the phlomis dies, overreaches itself or turns out to be too boring to tolerate before we finally get our camellia.

Meanwhile, last year in a Santa Barbara garden called Lotusland, in the Japanese section, I saw some very nicely shaped shrubs in the distance and went for a closer look. They were, to my astonishment, camellias, not in their natural shape, but pruned loosely in the Japanese style, or Niwaki, into a shape a bit like *Cornus controversa*. It was a revelation. I'm not big on fussing and sculpting plants, but an exception might be made for camellias. No longer do we need to look at great lumpen things all year for the sake of a flower in winter. Like Bette Davis's eyebrows in *Now Voyager*, they can be tamed.

Coming back that day, I immediately attacked an oafish camellia that I had been trying not to notice at the front of the California house, reducing it by two thirds, on the cure or kill principle – it has miniature double red flowers, so no one will miss it. Of course it is not ideal to begin with a full grown plant, since to get the proper effect you should be training from youth the branches you want to keep so that they are horizontal. Even so, just being able to see light through the shrub was a hundredfold improvement.

Frank Ronan is a novelist who gardens in both the UK and USA.

I did know, from periodically attacking one that takes over the small back garden of a friend in London, that camellias don't object to the odd massacre. Also, if you think about it, tea is a kind of camellia, which suffers constant pruning, and I might, had I been more intelligent, have had the idea from seeing the beauty of tea estates, without waiting to be hit over the head with it in a Japanese garden. And the worse thing is, now that I know that any camellia can be made respectable, I have to reconsider all the rejects whose flowers alone I have loved. □

Gabriel Ash Greenhouses

VISIT US AT THE STAND OR ONLINE FOR OUR LATEST

SHOW OFFERS

MADE IN BRITAIN

gabriel ash

The only timber greenhouses endorsed by the RHS

Royal Horticultural Society
Sharing the best in Gardening

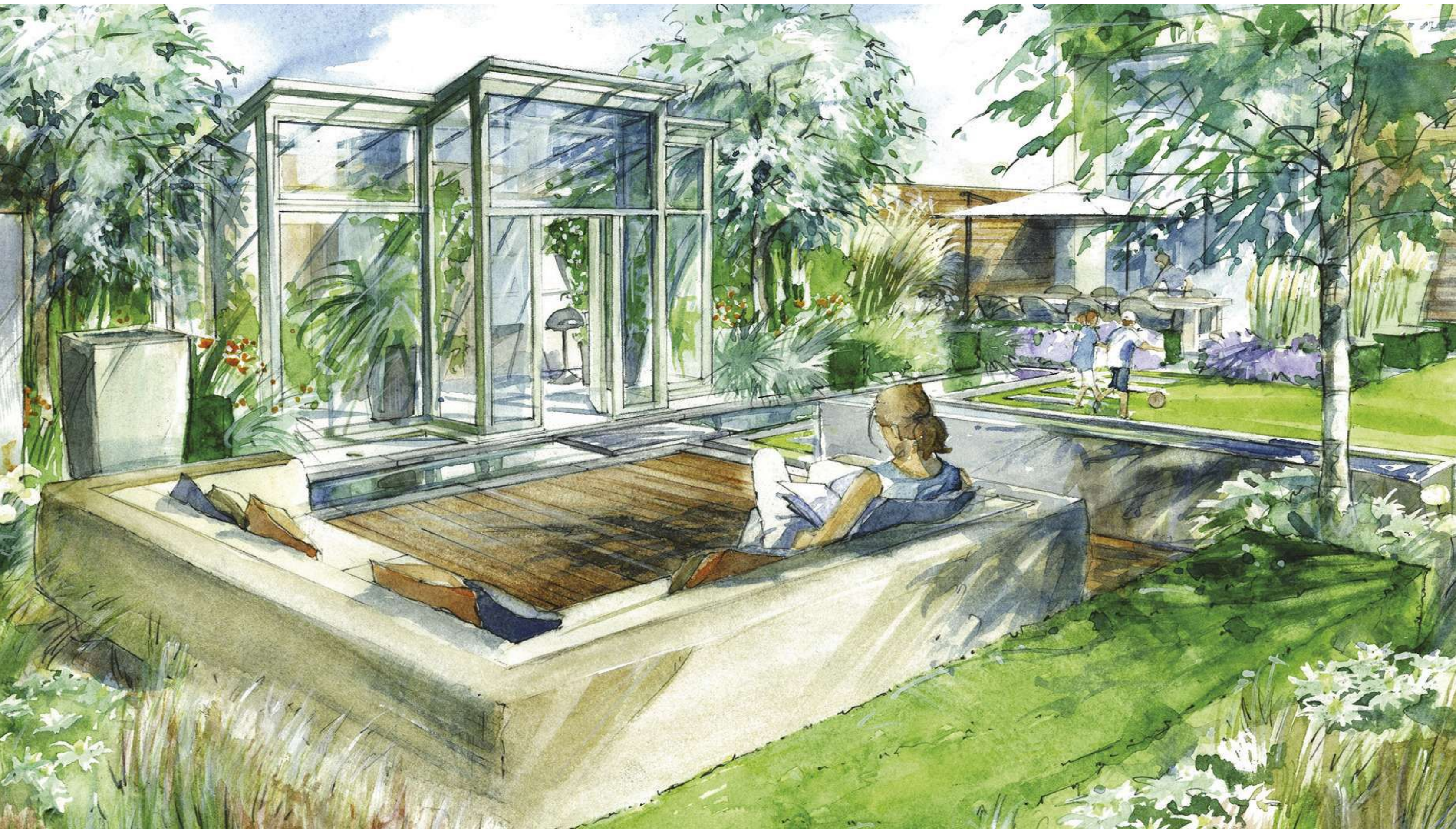
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL **01829 271 890**
OR VISIT **www.gabrielash.com**

BLOOM (IRELAND) FLOWER SHOW	*GARDENING SCOTLAND FLOWER SHOW*	*GARDENERS WORLD LIVE*
2nd - 6th June	*3rd - 5th June*	*16th - 19th June*
Stand No: OR49	*Stand No: 159*	*Stand No: E214*

gabriel ash
The only timber greenhouse company to be endorsed by

HARTLEY BOTANIC

WITH PRIDE SINCE 1938



Opus

A NEW CONCEPT

THE FINEST GLASSHOUSES MONEY CAN BUY

For all our **OFFERS** call or click **0800 783 8083**

www.hartley-botanic.co.uk Quoting Ref: GI